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AMMAN SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 1999, SHAWWAL 13, 1419

Price: Jordan 200 Fils

24 killed in Kosovo village

ROGOVO (AFP) - Twentyfour ethnic Albanians, many of them armed, were killed in this village in western Kosovo on Friday amid fighting with goverament forces, international observers said. The latest bloodshed came as the sixminon Contact Group set a Feb-b deadline for Yugoslavia and Kosovo Albanian leaders to begin talks in France on giving "substantial autonomy" to the Serbian province. Twentythree bodies, all male, and one an adolescent, were seen by an AFP reporter lined up in a familyard here, waiting to be usen to a morgue. All but four had pistols and grenades on their belts. Five wore uniforms of the separatist Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). Nine had builet wounds to the head.

Sicilian police arrest Mafia boss

PALERMO (R) — A fugitive Italian Mafia boss was arrested in his Sicilian hideout on Friday where police said they found him clutching a handgon and listening to radios tuned to their frequencies. Police said they discovered Salvatore Di Gangi, 57, who has been on the run since 1992, hiding in a fuxurious black of flats on one of Sicily's main squares armed with a 357 Magnum handgun. Di Cangi, the fifth most wanted Mana fugitive, was sentenced in absentia to 14 years in prison by a court for his part in convering in the south-constal city of Agriculto.

U.S. warns citizens on travel to Yemen

WASHINGTON (AFP) -The U.S. State Department has warned American citizens gainst travelling to Yemen following recent high-profile mixiems involving foreigners. The level of risk for foreigners in Yemen is very high," it said in a statement, noting that four tourists had been killed after being kidnapped in a clash with between their abductors and security forces. It added that trials for suspects in the kidnapping case as well as in a case involving a plot to bomb Western targets in the country were now underway. In addition, the statement said that "other anti-Western terrorists are still at large" in Yemen.

Gore warns Primakov over Iran

DAVOS (AFP) — U.S. Vi∞ President Al Gore warned Russian Premier Yevgeny Primakov on Friday that Washingion could reconsider lucrative space industry cooperation if Moscow fails to stop nuclear technology sales to tran diplomats said. During a 90 minute meeting in Davos. Switzerland, Gore reiterated a U.S. warning that Washington to link the sale of missile technology to the issue of satellite launch business Worth \$1 billion a year for the Russians

Court in Basque country bombed

BILBAO (AFP) - Two masked attackers hurled Molotov cocktails at a court in Spain's northern Basque region on Friday, police said. the assailants made their lunch-time attack with petrol bombs before fleeing. The fire has quickly put out with an extinguisher and only minor damage was reported. The court in Llodio, in the Basque Movince of Alava, was also incombed in 1994. Similar attacks, generally blamed on foung radical separatists indeed to the ETA Basque milthe multiplied in the esion in recent weeks, despite an ETA ceasefire.

Prince Abdullah opens Arab interior ministers conference

Jordan to intensify cooperation with Arab states to fight terrorism, drugs — Regent

تصدر بَبِالْكَتِّجِلُيزِية عن المؤسسة المنحفية الأردنية والرايء

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN - HRH Crown Prince Abdullah, the Regent, on Friday reiterated Jordan's firm stand against terrorism and drug trafficking, saying the Kingdom intends to intensify cooperation with Arab states to combat both prob-

Addressing the opening session of the Conference of Arab Interior Ministers, the Regent said: "The session [of Arab ministers] here in Amman comes at the proper time to discuss important issues that have direct impact on the lives of people, especially terrorism and drug

In his first public address since his appointment as heir to the Throne, Prince Abdullah stressed that His Majesty King Hussein has repeatedly stated that terrorism has no religious or political bound-

"We in Jordan are following the problem of terrorism with keen interest," the Regent said, adding that the Kingdom's participation in the 1998 anti-terrorism conference in Egypt was part of this

The conference, held in the Red Sea resort town of Sharm Arab and foreign dignituries together to discuss measures to fight terrorism in the Mid-

Prince Abdullah conveyed King Hussein's good wishes

for a successful meeting as the King himself is particularly keen to "secure comprehensive peace and security" for

"Despite His Majesty's current health condition, he looks at your meeting with all interest, and I pray to Almighty God that he will return home safely," the Prince told the pardeipants at the three-day nuccting.

Saudi Interior Minister Navef Ben Abdul Aziz, who is also the honorary chairman of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers, said the council has had many achievements in the past few years, especially in the areas of combating terrorism and drug trafficking.

Among these, he said, were the Arab Strategy to Combat Terrorism, which was agreed upon during the council's previous meeting in Tunisia in 1998 with the ratification of seven Arab countries, as well as another plan to fight drug abuse in the Middle East.

The interior ministers are scheduled to discuss the annual report on the "security plan" and a plan to educate the Arab public on how to help to combut crime in the

A report about efforts to fight terrorism in the region, retariat, described Israel as "one of the major sources of terrorism in the region."

"While it claims that it is a base of democracy, freedom and liberty, it (Israel) uses the



HRH Crown Prince Abdullah, the Regent, meets with Saudi Interior Minister Navef Ben Abdul Aziz following his arrival in Amman (Photo by Yousef 'Allan)

platform of fighting terrorism to ensure its targets of expansion into the Arab World," the report said.

Israel is seeking to damage the reputation of Arab citizens hy misguiding world public opinion that Arabs are behind violence." report, said.

Last year. Arab justice and interior ininisters reached an agreement to fight terrorism. The agreement differentiated

between temprism and the right of peoples to struggle in all loring to liberate their lands in line with U.N. principles and international law.

In the final communiqué of the April 1998 needing, Arab interior ministers lashed out at called for enhancing security and judicial cooperation among Arab states, "including

the hand-over of those involved in these acts." At least 22 ministers, 18 of

them interior ministers, are taking part in the current conlerence, which will end on Sunday.

Among those visiting Jordan for the first time were Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Sabah of Kuwait, Michel Mohammad Harbah of Syria. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh on Friday held a lunch banquet honouring the Arab delegates to the conference.

King starts new treatment session at Mayo Clinic

By Caroline Faraj

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein has started a new chemotherapy session at the Mayo Clinic and his condition is stable, Jordan's ambassador to die U.S. told the Jordan Times on Friday.

"The King is presently undergoing treatment for about 10 days that includes chemotherapy, and the doctors are trying to have him go through that course in order to attempt a more successful remission," Marwan Muasher said.

King Hussein underwent six months of treatment at the Rochester, Minnesota elinie for non-Hodgkins lymphoma. He returned to cheering crowds in Amman on Jan. 19, but his doctors' concerns over a recurrent fever and blood count abnormalities forced him to return last Tuesday to the U.S. for further medical attention.

"His Majesty is fully aware of everything, and his morale is very high." Mussher told the Jordan Tunes in a telephone interview on Friday from the Mayo Clinic.

The King is in constant touch with HRH Crown Prince Abdullah, the Regent, and he is giving his instruc-

The ambassador said King Hussein is up and around, visiting with relatives and watching Jordan Television. The Associated Press quot-

ed Her Majesty Queen

ing Jordan on Tuesday.

Noor's press secretary Nadine Shubeilar on Friday as saying that the King has even found time for recreation, including playing board games

"He is up and walking around, His mood is high." Shubeilat said,

Some sources, however, said they expected that King Hussein might need to undergo a second stem cell trans-

"We have to wait and see what will be the find results after concluding the 10-day chemotherapy," said one informed source.

"If the doctors at the Mayo-Clinic decide that King Hussein needs an operation, it will not be a problem because the marrow cells are available," the source added.

The King received a stem cell transplant following six courses of chemotherapy which began last July. The 63-year-old Monarch announced at the end of that treatment that he had fully recovered. But when syingturns of fever and blood count abnormalities were indicated last week, his physicians said they were taking no chances and reconintended that he return to

the clinic. the King's readin has been headline news on major global media organisation broadcasts and the press since leav-

(Cuntinued on page 2)

Regent meets with Albright, Saudi defence minister

U.S., Saudi Arabia express continued support for Jordan

By Francesca Ciriaci with agencies

AMMAN -- Major world and regional players, including the U.S., Saudi Arabia, and Israel, reiterated their support for Jordan this weekend.

Washington reaffirmed its full backing to the Kingdom in all fields and pledged continued economic and military assistance to the Kingdom during a visit here on Thursday by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

After talks with HRH Crown Prince Abdullah, the Regent, at Raghadan Palace, Albright pledged that the U.S. was looking into ways to support Jordan's economy further and more effectively.

Albright, whose unscheduled stop in Amman followed talks on Iraq in Egypt and Saudi Arabia, said she "wanted to stop here in order to make very clear that the U.S. stands with Jor-

"I wanted to stop in Amman to congratulate His Highness Prince Abdullah on his new assignment and to hold discussions with him," she added.

Albright said her country was looking forward to the recovery of His Majesty King Hussein. who flew urgently to the U.S. last week and is now undergoing more chemotherapy treatment at the Mayo Clinic, in

The U.S. official conveyed to Prince Abdullah a message from U.S. President Bill Clinton, congratulating him on his necent designation as Crown Prince.

Rochester, Minnesota.

In the message, President Clinton expressed the U.S. administration's satisfaction with the way the designation of Prince Abdullah as Crown Prince was handled, saying the development reflected Jordan's institutionalisation and stability.

Reporters accompanying Albright said U.S. officials in her delegation had stressed that Washington was regarding Amman as "the casis of stability" it had always been and dismissed outright speculation on any domestic or foreign policy

changes. They also said U.S. officials had told them that Prince Abdullah was well-known to the administration and was a frequent visitor to the Pentagon and other agencies.

"He is not an unknown quantity. His is a frequent visitor to the Pentagon," one U.S. official was quoted as saying. "I expect continuity. If you see Abdullah, you will see a chip off the old

Despite the brevity of her visit here. Albright said she and Prince Abdullah held "lengthy" talks about trag, but did not

"Our policy continues to be the same: to contain Saddam and work towards a regime change there." Albright told reporters.

Jordan has always stood tirmly in support of the sovereignty and temtorial integrity of trace but it has also said it wished the Iraqi people could enjoy the freedoms, stability, and democ-

racy they deserve. Albright said the U.S., which is scheduled to provide Jordan with \$341 million in economic and military assistance through 1999, was looking into ways to transfer aid sooner.

"We're looking into a variety of ways of dealing with some of the economic subjects.... We have placed some money into a supplementary package, called the Wye supplemental.. we want to see now whether there is some way to move that money in a more rapid fashion and also generally how to be more supportion economically." Albright

As she was speaking here, U.S. officials in Aquba were handing over \$25 million worth of military equipment, the final tranche of Jordan's 1998 military aid package (see story on

page 3). Albright announced in her last visa to Jordan in December an additional \$200 million package of "security aid," which diploneats say will take the form of a drawdown of used U.S. military equipment to be granted to fordan in coming years.

Saudi Defence Minister Prince Suhan Ben Abdul Aziz also paid a visu to Prince Abdullah on Thursday to congratulate him on behalf of King Fahd.

"Jordan is the apple of the eye of the And World, and safeguarding it means we are safeguarding the sight of the whole nation," said Prince Sultan, who is also deputy prime minister. "Hence, we care about Jordan, and the nation deserves our

appreciation." Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu relephoned Prince Abdullah on Friday "in congratulate him on his appointment and to pass on best wishes for the recovery of his father" an Israeli official statement said.

For Israel, "peace with Jurdan is a major imperative," it added.



Palestinian mourners carry the coffin of Zaki Obeid on Friday during his funeral procession in Arab east Jerusalem. Obeid was shot on Jan. 26 by an Israeli border guard during clashes in the Jerusalem neighbourhood of Issaweyah and was in a coma for two days before being declared dead officially Jan. 28 (AFP photo)

Clashes after funeral of slain Palestinian

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) - Some 100 stonethrowing Palestinian youths clashed with Israeli troops firing rubber-coated steel bullets on Friday, witnesses said, after the funer-

al of a man who was shot dead by a policeman. Hundreds of Palestinians attended the funeral of Zaki Obeid, 28, which passed off peacefully in the

sajd. Several of the Palestinians

Arab east Jerusalem of neighbourhood

stayed behind to throw stones and Molotov cocktails at police, witnesses

Issaweyah, but 100 youths

were injured in the clashes, which were ongoing at sunset, but none of them was seriously hun and none was taken to hospital, the witnesses said. Obeid was pronounced

dead on Thursday at Jerusalem's Hadasah Ein

Kerem Hospital, where he had been in a coma since being shot during a protest on Tuesday by around 100 people demonstrating against the demulition of a Palestinian bome in Issaweyah.

The policeman who killed Obeid faces charges of causing death through negligence for firing a rubbersheathed hallet at the Palestinian from too close

Plea bargain reached in case of Israeli 'spies' in Cyprus

LARNACA (AP) - Two Israelis charged with spying on Cyprus pleaded guilty to lesser charges Friday when the prosecution dropped the main charges of conspiracy and espionage in an apparent plea bar-

The defendants, Udi Hargov and Igal Damary, changed their plea to guilty on a charge of possession of illegal telecommunications equipment and entered the same plea to a new charge of approaching a restricted area.

The first charge carries a maximum sentence of one year in prison and the second a maximum sentence of six years. Under the dropped charges, each could have gotten up to 10 years imprisonment. Judge George Aristis scheduled sentencing for Monday. It seemed

unlikely the two would get the max-

imum sentences since the dropping

of the major charges and the pleas to lesser ones seemed part of a deal.

The defendants, in juckets and ries, appeared unusually cheerful from the time they were brought in court in the constal town of Lamaca.

Two Israeli lawyers who have been assisting the Cypriot defence team in the case and Israeli embassy representatives also appeared to be upheat, exchanging smiles and nods during the 35-minute proceedings.

Hargov and Damary were arrested Nov. 6 at the small fishing village of Zigi on the Cypriot southern coast. The village is near military installations, including an army commando training camp. During an earlier visit to Cyprus in October, Cypriot

military exercises with Greece were underway at nearby areas. Newspapers reported that they made calls to a number in Tel Aviv that was believed to be Israel's Mossad spy agency.

When the two were arrested. Cyprus also was expecting to receive a Russian air defence system, and Turkey had vowed to block deployment of the missile system. which has since been cancelled.

Their case strained relations with Israel, whose growing military cooperation with Turkey has become a source of senous concern to Cyprus, more than a third of

which is occupied by Turkish

Turkey invaded Cyprus in 1974 after a brief coup by Greek Cypriots seeking to unite the island with Greece. Turkey has since kept an estimated 35,000 troops in a breakaway state declared by Turkish Cypriots in 1983.

(Continued on page 2)

Crown Prince Abdullah celebrates 37th birthday today Meanwhite, tocat newspapers on Friday papers on Friday hailed China's Deputy President to The Microsoft Course In The Microsoft In The Mi

alls for \rab lialogue AGHDAD (AFP) — terign Minister Motors at Al Subhai code it. Y for a rereved Act, the even though Rept. It is maining from in the backing of a state of the backing of a state of the backing of the backing of a state of the backing of the bac portunities to unite a local mine a local mine a vital esta rollow the kuntur più and them are a montant de local mine a l

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

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Crown Prince the strategy with the health of the health o And the form of the interest of the new Hashemite Sahhar sormed on a being to the Throne continuiceting in Carolingae and Western leaders.

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ombardments on kay ness' birthday amid sentiappear Beehdad of mens of love and pledges relateral fring of Ex of allegiance to Prince Abdullah and to the Hashemite Throoe, the Herain the line state-run news agency

And the per pers said on Friday.

The Ard Legent His Majesty King Hussian designated Prince

The Charte index Abdullah as heir to the Throne on Mooday, replacing his younger brother. we for 15 mas. HRH Prince Hassan, who well on noise bad been Crown Prince for - 34 years.

Prince Abduman.

heads the army's elite Special Forces Command,

took over as Regent on Tuesday after King Hussein was rushed hack to Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, suffering from

recurring fever and low

blood count, Jordanian officials said Palestinian President Yasser Arafat was expected to visit Jordan on Saturday to call on Prince Abdullah to congratulate him on his appointment hefore embarking on a key trip to Europe and the United States,

In a cable he sent on Wednesday, Arafat expressed his support for the Crown Prince and stressed the "good relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian leaderships" and the "excellent relations between the two

He also expressed his gratitude to King Hussein for his support for the peace process and the aspirations of the Palestinians.

by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, also a deputy prime minister. (See story, page

Albright, who handed the Crown Prince a letter of support from U.S. President Bill Clinton, emerged from the 30-minute meeting to reiterate U.S. support for the King's choice.

"I have wanted very much to stop here in Amman to congratulate Prince Abdullah on his new assignment," she said, adding that the visit was aimed to show that "the U.S. stands by Jordan,"

The Saudi guest, who said he was instructed by King Fahd to wish Prince Ahdullah good luck, was met at the airport hy the Regent and other Royal family members.

"Jordan is the apple of the Arah World's eye, and by safeguarding Jordan, we are safeguarding the sight of the whole [Arab] nation," Prince Sultan told reporters, "Hence, we care ahout Jordan, and the nation deserves our appreciation.'

Ties between neighbouring Saudi Arabia and Jordan were strained during the 1990-1991 crisis Gull triggered by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, but they have warmed over the past three years.

Wednesday, Bahrain's Crown Prince Sheikh Salman Ben Hamad made a brief stopover in Amman to meet Prince Abdullah, who has developed strong ties with several Gulf Arab leaders during his army tenure.

Šheikh Sultan Ben Mohammed, ruler of the

Prince Mohanmad, Israeli President Ezer Weizman and Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon also sent the Crown Prince congratulatury messages.

Meanwhile, hundreds of well-wishers from across the country continued to arrive at Raghdan Palace on Thursday to pledge alletary education.

giance to Prince Abdullah. Many offered him copies of the Huly Kuran and recited poetry during the reception, held for a secand day because of the crowds wanting to greet

Prince Ahdullah, standing in the elahorate throne chamber, shook hands and kissed bedouin tribesmen. many of who recited verses expressing "allegiance" to the "Hashemite Throne of Hussein and Ahdullah,"

The well-wishers, of all ages, included leaders of the influential Islamic Action Front and the Muslim Brotherhood, women activists, husinessmen. traders, unionists, Christian clergy and women members of local tribes. For a fourth day, newspa-

pers were awash with congratulatory ads, many of them full-page, displaying pictures of King Hussein and Prince Abdullah. The ads, adorned with

national flags and the ernwn, were accompanied hy poems, warm wishes and expressions of "unequivocal loyalty" for the Hashemites. Prince Abdullah, who

holds the rank of major general in the Jordan Armed Forces, is King Hussein's eldest son by his second wife, HRH Princess

Born in Amman in 1962, the Prince started his edu-

entered St. Edniund's School in Surrey, then later attended Deerfield Academy in the United States where he completed his high school education.

In 1980, Prince Abdullah joined Britain's Royal Academy a Sandhurst, where he received his mili-

He joined Oxford University for a year, graduating in 1984 in special studies in international politics and world affairs, On returning home in 1984, Prince Abdullah, then a first lientenant, served as Platoon Commander and Company 2nd-in-com-mand in the 40th Armoured Brigade, His military service was interrupted thrice to attend the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., where he was in residence as a inid-career fellow, to attend the All Arms Tacties Course at the British School of Infantry, and the Command and Staff College, Camberley, in the United Kingdoni.

As commander of the Special Forces Command, Prince Ahdullah led an operation to rout gunmen from their hideout following the high profile murder of eight people at a home in a West Amman suhurb in 1998.

While the Prince's interests have focused on the military - where he is highly respected and supported - he has also acted as Regent in the absence of King Hussein and other family mentbers, and has several times been assigned by the King to represent Jordan on Foreign missions. Prince Abdullah enjoys

collecting ancient weapons and armaments. He is president of the National Football Federation, honorary

president of the Interna-

car racing like his father, as

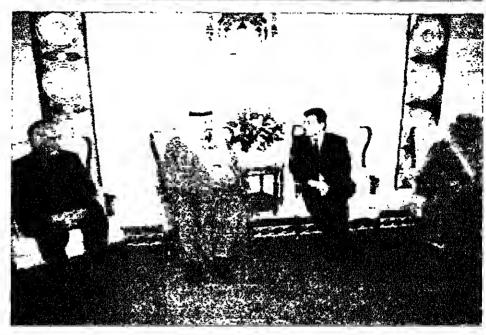
well as water sports and

tional Tourism Golden Rudder Society, and heads the National Committee for Tourist and Archaeological Films Production. In June 1993, Prince

Abdullah married Her

Royal Highness Princess Rania. The couple have one son, HRH Prince Hussein, born June 28, 1994. and one daughter, HRH Princess Iman, horn Sept.





A FULL AGENDA: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Abdullah, the Regent, had a full weekend agenda, nteeting with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (top) and with Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz thelow() photos by Petra)

Time, which speed - I July

nt session AQABA: His Royal Highness Prince Faisal attends a ceremony to receive the last tranche of American military aid (Petra photo)

Jordan receives last the Table Content tranche of \$76.6 million military aid package

¥ AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan received a delivery of \$25 million worth of military equipment from the U.S. Thursday, the final tranche of \$76.6 million military aid allocated to the Kingdom for the 1998 fiscal

His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, who attended the ceremony, praised the ties between Jordan and the U.S., describing them as based on mutual pry confidence and deep respect

Prince Faisal expressed Jordan's deep appreciation of the U.S. aid which he said will further boost the Kingdom's defence capabilities.

The equipment was provided under a "nulitary drawdown" programme, in

Save water

line with the President Bill Clinton's pledge to assist the Kingdom.

Colonel Jack Dees, chief of the military assistance programme in Jordan, said the equipment includes 18 M901 improved tube launchers optically wireguided (TOW) missile vehicles, ammunition and spare parts for a variety of Jordan Armed Forces vehicles and aircraft.

Prince Faisal inspected the military equipment and was briefed by the military on their use and impor-

In January of last year, Jordan received helicopter spare parts, 38 M60 A3 tanks. 18 Howitzer cannons. \$6 million worth of ammunition and military personnel carriers worth a

ele p counts!!!

In 1996. Jordan received the first one-third of U.S. military drawdown assistance, valued also at \$100 million. Additionally, the Kingdom received \$200 million worth of 16 F-16 jet fighters that year.

This year, President Clinton said he plans to request Congressional budget authorisation for a total of \$425 million in military assistance to Jordan over three years.

The delivery of the military equipment coincided with a brief visit to Jordan on Thursday by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who arrived to express America's support for Jordan and to congratulate His Royal Highness Crown Prince Abdullah. the Regent, on his appointment last week as crown prince.

The U.S. has already significantly increased economic aid to Jordan in the last three years to support the national economy.

Economic aid now runs at \$150 million a year, up from just \$7 million in

Viagra hits Jordanian market, pharmacies report low demand

headline-making impotency drug Viagra is now available at pharmacies in Jordan, but can only be obtained with a doctor's prescription, according to the Health Ministry.

A report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Friday said that Jordanian pharmacies started selling the drug legally as of Thursday, although the drug has been sold illegally for months at inflated prices.

The report quoted the Department of Pharmaceuneal and Laboratory Control at the Ministry of Health announcing the arrival of the first shipment of the Viagra drug from the U.S. The department emphasised the ministry's strict rules that the drug can only be sold to the public through a doctor's prescrip-

According to Mohammad Sabbagh, general manager

AMMAN (J.T.) — The of Sabbagh Drug Company. the local agent for the American manufacturer of Viagra, his company submitted a request to register the drug in Jordan nearly seven months ago.

He said Viagra will be sold in a four-pill pack for JD36, noting that the price in Jordan will be the same as the international prices, although its official price in the U.S. is \$10 a pill.

A report in Al Dustour Friday quoted Maisaa Al Saket, head of the pharmaccutic department at the Health Ministry as saving that the decision to sell the drug came after recommendations from the ministry's technical committee. The committee will monitor the sale of the drug to ensure that it is only sold if prescribed by a doctor. She said the ministry will

also take measures to prevent the smuggling of the drug into the Kingdom. warning that any drug store selling smuggled Viagra pills will be subject to legal procedures.

The report quoted a number of pharmacy owners as saying that demand on the Viagra pill on the first day was poor, hut they emphasised that they will strictly abide by the Ministry of Health's control regulations.

Viagra, which started selling in the U.S. and a number of Western countries over a year ago, should be dispensed under strict medical control to ensure that no harm is inflicted on consumers and that consumers are not subject to side effects of the drug.

Officials believe that the sale of Viagra in Jordan could further boost the Kingdom's hirth rate, which currently stands at 3.4 per cent, one of the highest in the world.

WHAT'S GOING ON

"The Godfather" (pt.1) at Books@ Café, Jabul Amman. at 8:30 p.m. (Parts II and III will be screened on Sunday and Monday respectively).

Exhibitions

 Works by Mohammad Al Saifi at Books@Cafe, Jabal Amman, until Feb. 13 (Tel. 4650457). Works by Victor Vasarely at the exhibition hall of the

Ministry of Culture, until Feb. S.

"The Warm Winter" - works by several artists at Orfali Art Gallery, Um Uthaina (Tel. 5526932), until Feb. 1. The Tenth Anniversary Exhibition of Contemporary Arab Artists at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh (Tel. 4643251/21, until Feb. 25.

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Brief News i n

Regent receives cable from Tunisia

AMMAN (Petra) -- His Royal Highness Crown Prince Abdullah, the Regent, Friday received a congratulatory cable from Tunisian President Zain Al Abedin Ben Ali on the occasion of his designation as heir to the throne. In his message, Ben Ali wished good luck and success to the Regent and progress and prosperity to the Jordanian people.

Arafat receives Majali in Gaza

GAZA (Petra) -- Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on Friday received head of the Jordanian representation office Ziyad Majali and inquired about His Majesty King Hussein's health. He also sent a cable to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, the Regent, congratulating him on his new post. Majali announced that President Arafat will pay a visit to the Kingdom today Saturday to meet with Prince Abdullah and senior Jordanian officials.

King confers medal on Fairouz

AMMAN (Petra) - Upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Abdullah, the Regent, on Friday conferred upon the Lebanese singer, Fairouz, the Al Hussein Medal for Distinguished Performance in appreciation of her efforts to upgrade Arab music and singing. Fairouz performed two concerts in the Kingdom on Thursday and Friday evening, for the first time in 16 years, at Amman Private University auditorium. The Lebanese diva came upon an invitation from the university and Al Faisali Youth Club.

Cold weather is on the way

AMMAN (J.T.) - The weekend's minfall came out only with around 250,000-300,000 cubic metres of water, an official said Friday. Meanwhile, the Meteorological Department said this week's weather will be relatively cold at night, with partly cloudy and moderate temperatures during the day. No rain is expected.

U.S. general questions support for Iraqi opposition groups

WASHINGTON (R) - The top U.S. commander in the Gulf on Thursday questioned American plans to support opposition groups in Iraq, saying none of the existing groups presented a viable threat to President Saddam

"I don't see an opposition group that has the viability to overthrow Saddam at this point," Marine Corps Gen. Anthony Zinni told a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee, whose members strongly advocated huilding up the resistance groups.

Zinni's comments followed signs of deep wariness in the Clinton administration toward putting too much faith in the opposition groups, which never have seriously challenged Saddam because of an inability to unite or to organise effectively inside Iraq.

Backing for the groups has been urged strongly by Congress and was a key element in a shift in U.S. policy announced by President Bill Clinton to combine short-term containment with the declared long-term goal of a new govemment in Baghdad.

Zinni, addressing many of the senators who helped drive the Iraqi Liberation Act that financial backing for the opposition, said: "I think it would be very difficult and, if not done properly, would be very dangerous.

Zinni, commander-in-chief of U.S. forces Central Command overseeing the volatile swathe of countries in the Middle East and South Asia. said his priority was stability in the oil-rich Gulf region, torn by war for much of the last two decades.

"It is possible to create a situation that would be worse [than at present]." he said, warning of the effect if Saddam's autocratic government fell amid a struggle between dozens of ethnic, religious and political groups competing for

Following the terms of the 1998 law, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright earlier this month named seven groups that qualify for U.S. backing, but senior U.S. officials have shown very differing levels of

On Tuesday, Clinton's National Security Adviser Sandy Berger appeared unconvinced, telling reporters: "We have not made a decision to use... funds" mandated by

first to discuss this with regional allies, many of which have expressed concern over the possible chaos should Saddam's authoritarian rule col-

He stressed that direct backing for the opposition, which includes two hig Kurdish groups in northern Iraq as well as the Iraqi National Congress led by exiles, is only part of a wider strategy to create an alternative voice for the Iraqi

Speaking at the State Department, spokesman James Foley expressed full support for the act, which was endorsed by Clinton and carries powerful weight from Congress, but stressed that the effort to replace Saddam was a long-term project.

We have no illusions, and I think based on past experience, we've made it clear that we don't want to rush into any kind of solutions that might end up becoming counterpro-ductive and leading to the loss of the lives of those who are seeking to promote change in Iraq." Foley said.

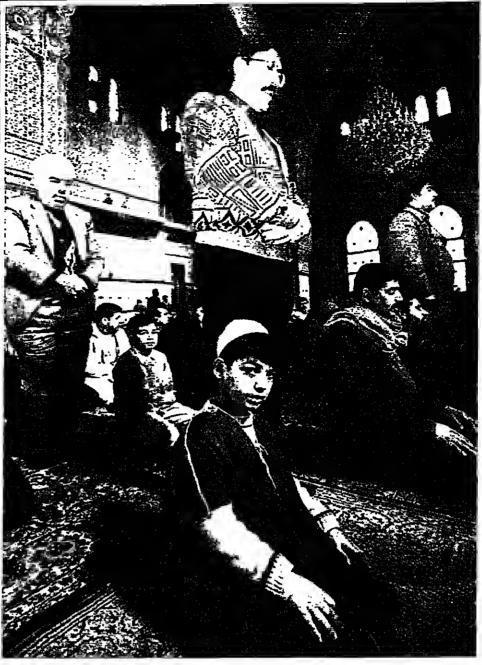
Democrats joined majority Republicans on the Senate committee in calling for a more robust policy to work for Saddam's ouster, including supplying military equipment to those opposition groups that show they can use it against

Democratic Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut. describing Saddam as "a time bomb which could explode." said: "A lot of us feel that the risk of moving him out of power is less than the risk of keeping him in power."

Several senators urged a more aggressive military approach to stop the series of almost-daily, cat-and-mouse engagements in the northern and southern no-fly zones in which U.S. planes attack ground defences in response to Iraqi threats.

Zinni said despite an exten-sion of so-called rules of engagement" allowing U.S. planes to hit any element of Iraq's air defence system in response to a threat, the rules were still restricted to targets inside the no-fly zones.
To pursue Iraqi MiG war-

planes that violate the zones and attack them at their heavily-defended bases, as urged by Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain at the hearing, would put pilots at high risk from missiles and entail a build-up of U.S. forces, Zinni said.



DAY PRAYERS IN BAGHDAD: An Iraqi boy prays Friday at Abdul Khader Al Gelani Mosque in Baghdad. Iraq and Saudi Arabia escalated a war of words with murderous and insults flying in the official media of both countries. Sheikh Abdul Razak Al Saadi said in his sermon 'those who claim that they are Arabs and Muslims are shaking hands with aggressors' in a reference to Saudi Arabia and

Sahhaf calls for renewe Arab dialogue

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Market Miles African Minister Miles Said Al Sahhaf called day for a renewed And logue even though beautiful smarting from a feature win the backing of League conference. We believe there

opportunities to unite efforts... this is vital for Arab countries which do not follow the Kuwani-Saudi orbit and their venom," Sahhaf told Iraqi satellite television.

"We will try to find frank and sincere ways to push even those who are standing against such a dialogue," he said according to an unofficial translation of the interview

Sahhaf stormed out of Sunday's Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo in protest at their failure to condemn December's U.S.-led missile bombardments on Iraq or to support Baghdad's call for a unilateral lifting of U.N.-sanc-

On Thursday, he reiterated allegations that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia had pressined other Arab League members into joining the "ugly game" by producing a final statement that was in line with U.S. demands and provided a "cover" for U.S. attacks this week on no-fly zones in Ing

'Mordechai has no chance in PM race'

TEL AVIV (R) - Sacked Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who announced his candidacy for prime minister this week, has no chance in defeating Benyamin Netanyahu in reelection in May, opinion polls showed on Friday.

According to two polls published in Israeli newspapers, Mordechai's dramatic announcement did not change earlier forecasts for the run-off vote in which Netanyahu would face Labour Party leader

Ehud Barak in a tight race. The poll of 550 people found Netanyahu winning 36 per cent. Barak 35 per cent and Mordechai 22 per cent in the first round. In a second round contest between the two top vote-getters, Barak would defeat Netanyahu 48 per cent to

46 per cent. The poll had a 4.5 per cent margin of error.

In a separate Dahaf poll published in the daily Yedioth Ahronoth. Netanyahu and Barak also moved into the second round with Barak edging out Netanyahu 45 per cent to 42 per cent. Dahaf canvassed 506 people and had a four per cent margin of error.

Czech intelligence chief's sudden dismissal shrouded in mystery

PRAGUE (AP) — Reports that of professionalism, the abrupt firing of the country's According to C intelligence chief was linked to planned terrorist activities of the former Iraqi consul general to Prague were met with silence Friday from the Czech govern-

The government announced Thursday that it had fired Karel Vulterin, head of the Czech intelligence service known as BIS. for a "serious professional fail-

The reason for Vulterin's dis-·missal late Wednesday remained secret, but some media attributed his firing to plans to blow up the office of U.S.-financed Radio Free Iraq in Prague.

Others antributed his firing resulted to inexperience and lack

According to Czech Television reports. Vulterin failed to inform the government that former Iraqi consul general to Prague, Jaber Salim, had been instructed to arrange for the bombing of Radio Free Iraq's offices on Wenceslas Square. No bombing was carried out,

and Salim defected to London "I am sorry that we had to

learn [about the professional failure from friendly powers." Deputy Premier Pavel Rychetsky told Czech Television on Thursday, refusing to be more specific.

"Every government in the world would do the same and not reveal reasons for it."

Media reported that British intelligence officers had learned of the bombing plot.

However, the daily Mlada fronta Dnes reported Friday that Vulterin was fired for failing to recruit Salirn and secure his cooperation with European and U.S. officials.

'No one at the Iraqi Embassy could be reached Friday morning for comment.

Jan Klas, the opposition deputy who beads the parliamentarian committee that oversees the BIS, contended the move was long planned. "Thave noticed pressure on the

[BIS] director for several weeks." Klas told the Pravo

Misha'al says Israel still trying to kill him

CAIRO (AFP) - A senior official in the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) accused Israel on Friday of continuing to try to assassinate him after he survived an attempt on his life in

September 1997. "I have received a number of messages confirming Israel's intention to try again [to assassinate me]." Khaled Misha'al. the head of Harnas' political bureau, said in an interview

Ahram Al Arabi.

with the Cairo weekly Al

intelligence sources that Israel was determined to make another attempt." said the Amman-based Harrias leader." "I'm not scared of death but this does not stop me from tak-

"I was told by Palestinian

ing precautions," he said. Misha'al survived an attempt by agents of Israel's intelligence service Mossad to kill him in Amman in Septem-

ber 1997. The botched attempt severely strained Israel's relations with Jordan and forced the

Jewish state to release Harnas spiritual leader. Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, after eight years in its jails in order to secure the return of the two Mossad In the interview Misha'al

also said that Hamas was keen to renew dialogue with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and challenged the PNA to enter into talks "based on justice and respect for the ultimate interests of Palestini-

If the PNA signals its will-

inguess to enter into Hamas, which opposes peace process with Israel. work "to prevent any Israe "U.S. pressure" on the I'm Misha al said.

Hamas' military wing, Izzeddine Al Qasse Brigades, which is usual thought to operate at arginerath from the political stri ture, has been responsible for series of suicide bombins which have killed dozens dreds more.

King starts new treatment session

(Continued from page 1)

Hargov, 37, and Damary, 49, have been held in the capital Nicosia 40 kilometres to the northwest, since their arrest. Their trial opened Jan. 20.

Prosecutor George Panaioannou explained the dramatic outcome of Friday's hearing by saying there were problems with the main charges against the men. "You see some difficulties and you have to take a decision," he told reporters.

"We could not see the out-

Church Te), 4771751.

Amman International Church

German-speaking Evangelical

The Evangelical Local Church

Church of Jesus Christ of Lat-

St. John the Baptist at De la

Church of the Annunciation

Greek Orthodox Church Tel.

Church of Presentation, Swei-

The Uniate Catholic Church

Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190

Evangelical Free Church Tel.

The Baptist Church Tel.

The Armenian Catholic

The Armenian Orthodox

Church Tel. 4771331

Church Tel. 4775261

English-Language

ter Day Saints Tel. 4654932

Salle College Tel. 5661757

Tel. 4637440

fieh Tel. 5920146

Tel. 4624757

4892679

4628052

4646)38

Congregation Tel. 5688404

in Amman Tel, 5811295

come of the earlier charges." he said. "We have changed the charges in view of the evidence we have." Explaining the new charge of approaching a restricted area. Papaioannou told the court the two were in the Vassiliko port near Zigi at a time when the Cyprus army was engaged in what he called a sen-

sitive operation. He did not elab-

Defence lawyer Antis Triantafyllides said the two defendants were in Cyprus in an effort to prevent a terrorist plot that could have cost many lives in Israel

He also said they were serving as lookouts for a meeting at Zigi, adding they had illegal scanners to intercept police communications because they did not want police to become suspicious and interfere in the meeting. He hinted the meeting may

have been between Israeli agents and a possible informer. The two men were arrested with radio scanners, a lap-top computer, cellular phones and eight maps of the island.

The specific charges dropped against them were spying on Cyprus and conspiracy to spy with intent to harm the Mediterraneon island nation.

Triantafyllides insisted "there is no evidence that my clients collected information or transmitted information against the Republic of Cyprus. Their mission was not to harm the republic or endanger its security." The defence lawyer said the men's mission is detailed in a report that was given to Cyprus' own intelligence agency.

(Continued from page 1)

"We don't want to enter into the kind of speculation and gossip that's been circulating in recent days." said Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh on Friday, adding that be was in constant contact with the

"The important thing is that His Majesty's condition is stable... he has slept very well," be said.

King Hussein's non-Hodgkins lymphoma is his second bout with cancer in six years. He underwent surgery at the Mayo Clinic in 1992 to remove his left kidney and cancerous cells from his ureter.

In April 1998, surgeons at the Mayo Clinic removed a benign growth from his prostate.

In the Kingdom, Jordanians prayed for the health of King Hussein.

"May God protect Hussein Bin Talal, leader of the country, and return him. healthy and cured." Imam. Sami Saleh told worshippers at King Abdullah

mosque. "May God protect this nation and country," he told a congregation which included Arab interior ministers who gathered in Jordan for a conference on Friday (see separate story).

12:00Brussels, Paris (RI)Geneva, Madrid (RI)

20:00Riyadh, Dhahran (RI)

11:15 .

Rome (RJ)

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel. 4773111-19 PROGRAMME TWO

16:10 Animaniaes

	16:30The Adventures of the
	Bush Parrot
	17:00Drama - Neighbour
	18:00 French programme - Fau
	Pas Rever
	19:00New in French
	19:15French programme
	19:30News Headlines
	19:35 Comedy Murghy Brown
	20:00Today's Health
i	20:30Drama The Pretende
	21:15Rania's Show
	22:00News in English
İ	22:30Feature Film — 'Misery'
	23:59End of T.X

PRAYER TIMES

05:07	(Sunrise) Duha
06:37	t Sunrise) Duha
11:49	Dhuhr
14:46	Asr1
	Maghreb
	'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Tel. 5920740 Assemblies of God Church Tel. 4632785 St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590

Terra Sancta Church Tel.

4622366

cloudy, winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.

Agaba . Deserts11/21 Jordan Valley Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 17 Agaba 19. Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

.05/12

Via Calgrinamina	,
Madaha	
Petra	03
Dead Sea	
USEFUL	

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by t	he Depart-
ment of Meteorology	•

ment of Meleorology -	
Fine weather conditions w	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Plea bargain reached in case of Israeli 'spies'

Min./Max. temp. .05/16 12/0(.03/17 ZARQA: Dr. Ratib Atallah (09)994424

Following are the tempreatures expected today in the following

Ura Qays	06/12
Madaba	
Petra	03/12
Dead Sea	13/24
TICEE	TT

TELEPHONE NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY** AMMAN.

ILLIN	WIATIATATA:	
	Dr. Hanna Mansour	475
by the Depart-	Dr. Afif Shukri	189
8.	Dr. Khali Ramadan	535
	Dr. Osema Husseini	534
onditions will		
.1.:		

Mayadah Pharmacy ...5537004 Rukn Al Dawa Pharmacy 5536169

Dr. Issam Salih(02)246858 Fou'ad Pharmacy (02)275360

Palestine Pharmacy_1091983562

EMERGENCIES Food Control Centre.....4637111 Civil Defence Department _5661111 Civil Defence Immediate Res-_4630341 Civil Defence Emergency.....199 Rescue Police 192, 4621111, 4637777 Fire Brigade..... 4617101 Blood Bank.... .4775121 Highway Police..... 5343402 Traffic Police..... ...4896390 Public Security Dept.....4630321 Hotel Complaints......5605800 Price Complaints......5661176 Wiser & Sewinge Complaints __4897467 Amman Municipality Complaints787111 Telephone Information (directory assistance)121 Overseas Calls0132 Central Amman Telephone 4623101 Repairs ... Abdali Tel. Repairs..... ...5661101 Jordan Television4773111

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RJ Flight Information_44-53200 Queen Alia Intl. Airport _44-53200

HOSPITALS AMMAN: The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery _____5921199 The Islamic, Abdli ___5666131/7 Hussein Medical Centre... 5856856 Luzmila ___

Khalidi Maternity......4644281/6 Akileh Maternity.......4642441/2 Jabal Amman Maternity... 4612362 Malhas, J. Amman.4636140 Palestine, Shmeisani ___5607071 Shmeisani Hospital5607431 .5607550 Jordan Hospital University Hospital5353414 Al-Mussher Hospital 5667277/9 Al-Ahli, Abdali5664164/6 Italian Al-Muhajreen 4777101/3 Al-Bashir 4775111/26 Army, Marka _____4891611/15 Queen Alia Hospital......5157100 Arnal Hospital _5607155 Al Amal Cancer Centre _5353000

ZARQA: Zarqa GovL Hospital .(09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital ..(09)900560 Ibn Sina Hospital ... (09)986731 Al Hikma Modern Hospital __(09)990990

Princess

(03)2014111

Roman Catholic Hospital _(02)272275 Nafees Hospital(02) 710) 372, (02) 7103101 Rosary Sisters Hospital(02) 7) 02831, (021 710201) Speciality Hospital ...(02) 7(03(00 AOABA:

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

Haya

Hospital

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RI) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights is obtained on telephone (44) 52700 or (44) 523250. Information on Royal Wings flights can be supplied on phone 4875201-5

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights 08:30Damascus (RJ) ...Tehran (RJ)

10:50...Colombo (RJ) 15:00 . New York. Amsterdam (RJ)Cairo (RI) 17:40London, Berlin (RJ)Rome (RJ) 19:50 22:50

10:15

13:05

13:15

Frankfurt (RJ) ...Larnaca (RJ) ...Paris (RJ) 07:35 Bangkok, Doha (RI) Other Flights

"Vienna (OS)

..Riyadh (SV)

13:20 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF) ...Rome (AZ) 18:00Dubai, Damascus (EK)Beirut (ME) ----Paris (AF) 19:15Frankfurt (LH) 21:35Cairo (MS) 22:55 London, Damascus (BA) 23:35 ...Belgrade (JU)

Royal Wings (RW) 08:30 Aquba (arriving at QAIA) 08:50 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA) (RW) 09:35 Aqaba (arriving at Marka

Airport) (RW) DEPARTURES

16:00 Aqaba (arriving at Marka

Airport) (RW)

21:35Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) Other Flights 06:15 Damascus, London (BA) Lamaca (CY) 14:15 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF) Riyadh (SV) ..Vienna (OS)‡ _Dubai (EK) 20:00 Beirut (ME) Cairo (MS)

Amsterdam (KE) Belgrade (JU) Royal Wings (RW)

06:00 Aqaba (from OAIA) (RW) 08:30 Aqaba (from Marka Air port)(RW) 19:45 Agaba (from Marks

. London (RJ) ..Cairo (RI) 12:35 Amsterdam, New York (RI) .Lamaca (RJ) 20:15 Bombay (RF) ...Jeddah (RJ) 🕇

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East Timorese rebel chief cautious on Jakarta proposal

jailed East Timorese rehel chief is wary of Indonesia's offer to give up authority over the former Portuguese colony, an associate said

Arrested in 1992. Xanana Gusmao is considered a key figure in any negotiated solution to the conflict in East Timor, which was invaded hy Indonesia in 1975 and aonexed a year

Indonesian officials this week offered to relinquish control of the troubled territory if the East Timorese reject an offer of autonomy from Jakarta.

Indonesia strongly opposes a vote on independence in East Timor, saying it could lead 10 civil war there. li has not said how it will determine what kind of political future the 800,000 East

Timorese want. Gusmao, who has long campaigned for a vote on self-determination, told associates this week that he wants Indonesia to elaborate on its willingness to consider independence for

"We are still waiting to see if the statement by the Indonesian government is serious." Mariano Sahino Lopez. an East Timorese activist, quoted Gusmao as

Lopez, who often visits Gusmao in a Jakarta prison, is chairman of the Association of East Timorese Students and Youth, a group of separatist activists.

Thursday, the newspaper Mlandiri quoted Gusmao as saying Indonesia's talk of independence for East Timor was long overdue.

"I am not particularly thrilled by the Indonesian government's latest plan to release East Timor." the paper reported him as saying from prison.

There is still a long hattle ahead. Still lots of uncertainties. For the sake of our struggle. I don't want to comment that much," Gusmao said.

A revered figure in East Timor, Gusmao is serving a 20-year sentence for leading a guerrilla war against

Facing international calls to free Gusmao, Indonesia has said it will move him to a special prison compound with more comfortable

The United Nations still considers Portugal to be the administering power in East Timor, and U.N.-sponsored talks between Jakarta and Lishon have gained momeotum in recent months.

When Indonesia invaded. East Timor was riven hy fighting between rival groups that erupted in the wake of a hasty withdrawal hy the Portuguese colonis-ers after a 400-year rule.

Indonesia has warned old antagonisms will set off widespread violence if an independence vote is held in East Timor.

In East Timor's capital of Dili. a small group of separatists Friday scuffled with pro-Indonesian activists who were holding a meeting at a hotel.

The organisers of the meeting fired several warning shots to disperse the separatists, one of whom

PROGRESSO

Political commissary of the East Timorese Socialist Party, Akara (centre), is flanked by an unidentified student and an unidentified fellow East Timnrese as he speaks during a press conference held at the University of Indonesia in Jakarta. Akara said his party rejected the Indonesian autonomy offer and urged Jakarta to immediately arrange for the transfer of power in the former Portuguese colony (AFP photo)

NATO warning clears way for tough challenge to Milosevic

LONDON (AP) — Backed hy a stiff NATO warning of possible military action, the Clinton administration and its allies today called for a negotiated settlement hy mid-Fehruary to end the violence in Kosovo.

The six Western powers of the Contact Group declared in a statement the Serhian province must he

In a stern message to Yugoslav President Slohodan Milosevic. the foreign ministers said only a limited number of points required discussion.

The talks between the Yugoslav government and representatives of ethnic Alhanians from the province would begin Feb. 6 in Rambouillet, France. and end within seven days. Rohin Cook, the British foreign secretary, and his French counterpart, Hubert Vedrine, were picked to lead the negotiations.

In the meantime, the statement adopted by the United States. Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Russia said the Serhs must stop "all offensive actions/repression" in Kosovo and promote the safe return of the thousands of civilians displaced from their homes as a result of the conflict.

Another demand leveled crimes investigation of a reported massacre of 45 ethnic Albanian civilians two weeks ago in Racak. in southern Kosovo. The allies also want the suspension of Serh officers operating in the area at the time, until the results of the probe become available.

Further, they want Milosevic to reduce troops to the number he agreed upon last October in a cease-fire arranged by U.S. Richard Holhrooke.

The ministers said the Kosovo Liberation Army shared responsibility with Yugoslavia's security forces for the escalation of violence in the province. They said both sides would be held "accountable if they fail to take the opportunity now offered to them" to end the conflict.

Cook said he would fly to Belgrade Saturday, then go to Pristina to present the at Belgrade included a war demands to Milosevic and the ethnic Albanians.

"We expect them to respond, and I will make it plain that this is a summons to negotiations. And we expect them to turn up in good faith with the objective of reaching an agreement on the detailed work we have done," Cook said.

Meantime, in Yugoslavia Friday, police clashed with ethnic Alhanian rebels in a village near the Alhanian border, killing 23 guerrillas. Serb sources said. One policeman was also reported killed in the village of

> The ministry could not immediately he reached for some experts predict the

of on-line communications

as part of a nationwide effort to limit free speech. a

Hong Kong-hased human

The Information Centre

for Human Rights and

Democratic Movement in

China said the Ministry of

Public Security has ordered

a 24-hour watch on popular

"As soon as counter-revo-

lutionary discussions are

discovered, the police

should contact the man-

agers and cut the service as

well as investigate the real

name of those who put up

the message," the group

said, citing a ministry direc-

on-line chat rooms.

rights group said Friday.

'China to step up

BELJING (R) — China comment. plans to step up supervision The order comes amid a top 10 million hy next year. push for greater supervision of loternet use in China and a crackdown on unlicensed Internet cafés and hars.

on-line supervision?

Last week, the ministry ordered husinesses which provide on-line services to register with local information industry officials.

Internet cafés must also provide details about their husiness operations, including the names of all weh surfers using the company's

computers. At least two hars in Beijing have already run afoul of the regulations and have been shut hy police, one industry source said.

More than two million Chinese are on-line, state media said this month. and

While recognising the important benefits the Internet brings to China's development, Beijing is also worried it poses a threat to social and national stability and has been struggling to control the resource.

In a landmark case in Shanghai. Lin Hai. a 30year-old computer engineer. was sentenced to two years in jail last week for providing e-mail addresses to an overseas pro-democracy

organisatioo. Police have also stepped up their war on hackers, most recently detaining one software designer for installing a "logic bomb" inside two popular educa-

U.N. to restart aid operations in east Congo

NAIROBI (R) — The United Nations is to restart aid operations in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo almost six months after rebellion there forced it to pull

The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) said it hoped to staff an international office in Goma, a town on Congo's horder with Rwanda, hy the end of next week.

"We have international staff who are prepared to go into eastern DRC and we are hopeful that we may have international staff going in hy middle to end of next week," said Everett UNICEF Ressler. regional emergency adviser, Thursday.

The United Nations pulled out of eastern Congo last August for security reasons at the start of a rebellion hy the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD) to oust fighting Laurent President Kabila.

Congolese

working for the U.N. remained there.

Immediately after the departure of international staff U.N. premises were looted and stripped hare. One estimate said 120 vehicles were stolen.

The civil war has divided Congo with hacked hy rehels Uganda and Rwanda controlling much of the north and east and Kabila's government, supported mainly hy Angola and Zimbabwe, in the west and south.

Since 1994, United Nations and aid agencies have come under intense scrutiny for their work in eastern Congo and stand accused of falling prey to political manipulation as they struggled to deal with large-scale

humanitarian need. This time the need in eastern Congo does not warrant massive intervention, Ressler said.

"There is not a crisis in the sense of large numbers of people dying," Ressler told Reuters. "But it hecomes a quiet emergency. If you don't immunise people children die of things like measles, but not immediately.'

UNICEF is to fly a cargo plane of medical supplies into Goma early next week including vaccinations for measles, solutions for cholera treatment and high protein hiscuits.

officials acknowledge return to eastern Congo presents political and security problems. One preparatory measure has been the proposal of a set of seven principles for independent, neutral humanitarian action.

Kabila's government had "accepted" the need for humanitarian assistance in rebelcontrolled territory, Ressler said.

The United Nations also insisted on the return of looted property — much of which aid workers say was taken by Rwandan troops and taken back to Rwanda. Rwanda denies the charge.

police detonate bomb SHENZHEN, China (R) —

Police in China's southern boomtown of Shenzhen Friday discovered and detooated a bomb on a busy main street, halting traffic briefly hut causing no injuries, police and witnesses said.

A witness who was near the scene said police detonated the bomh after finding it in a huilding one bus stop away from Shenzhen city hall and clearing the area of people and vehicles. It was not clear how police learned of the bomb.

The bombing was at least China's fifth this month, underscoring official fears of disorder in a society with millions of people seething with grievances over johlessness and corruption and where crude industrial explosives are easily available.

Shenzhen police were questioning an unspecified number of "criminal suspects", said a police official. He declined to give further details pending an investigation.

Police had cleared the area prior to setting off the bomh at around 10:00 a.m. (0200 GMT), the witness said. It was not immediately clear if buildings were damaged wheo it was set off.

China's Shenzhen

The witness said traffic resumed shortly after police had surveyed the bomb site, near one of the main arteries of Shenzhen, a freewbeeling city on China's border with Hong Kong.

The border city Friday teems with pedestrians, with China-based Hong Kong husinessmen returning home for the weekend and Hong Kong residents heading to Shenzhen for its night life. The prosperous Shenzhen is

not without economic tensions, with the stock market doing poorly and many firms drowning in deht. The city is also awash with prostitution. drugs and organised crime.

Monday, an explosion believed to be caused by a homemade nail bomb ripped through a farmers' market in rural Hunan province, killing nine and injuring more than 65, hospital and police sources have said.

Hunan has been hit hy farmers protests over high taxes and corruption in some of China's worst rural violence

On Jan. 17 a homemade

bomh injured 37 people

aboard a packed bus in the Hunan provincial capital of Changsha.

On Jan. 6, a powerful bomb tore apart a bus in the northeastern province of Liaoning, killing 19 passeogers in what was an apparent abortive robbery attempt, police said.

State media reported that four people were injured in southern Zhuhai city wheo an unideotified explosive device blew up a trash can outside a bus stop on Jan. 13. The bombings highlight

simmering discontent in China over corruption, joblessness and falling farm incomes, alarming the govemment in a year studded with politically sensitive

On this year's calendar are the 10th anniversary of the June 4 Tiananmen Square massacre and the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Communist government on Oct. 1.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin has led a push for social stability and ordered a crackdown on political opposition amid womes unrest could threateo Communist Party rule in 1999.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Feb. 6 deadline for Kosovo peace talks

LONDON (AFP) — Western powers and Russia Friday set a deadline of Feh. 6 for Belgrade and ethnic Albanian leaders to start peace talks oo Kosovo and gave them a further week to reach an agreement. The talks are to take place in Rambouillet, near Paris, under the peace plan called for by a meeting of the six-nation Contact Group on the former Yugoslavia io London. The talks will be chaired by British Foreign Minister Robin Cook and his French counterpart Hubert Vedrine. It will be expected to find an accord on the hasis of the Contact Group's proposal of "substantial autonomy" for the troubled Serbian province. If the parties do make progress, they would be given a further seveo days to fine-tune an accord, according to the communiqué from the Contact Group meeting. It said they would be allowed the extra time "to complete the negotiations on a political settlement within 21 days" from now. Cook told a press confereoce after the Contact Group meeting that he would go to Belgrade Saturday to pass on the peace plan for the troubled Serbian province. The Contact Group comprises Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Russia and the United-

Photographers implicated in Diana investigation meet with judge

PARIS (AP) — The judge in the Princess Diana investigation Friday questioned the photographers implicated in the case ahout events in the hours leading up to the crash. The photographers were summoned one-hy-one into Judge Herve Stephan's office at the Palais de Justice in central Paris. Defence lawyers said the quesnons were based on contact apparently made the day of the crash between one of them and the head of Etoile Limousine. the company that supplied the Mercedes. According to a judicial source, phone records show that the owner of Etoile Limousine, Nils Siegel, had telephone contact three times the day of the crash with an independent photographer, Fahrice Chassery. Such phone contact would imply that the photographer may have learned the route the Mercedes would take ahead of time. When questioned earlier by Judge Stephan, Siegel had denied any contact with the photographer. Later he admitted receiving three calls, without revealing their content. No. announcement from the judge was expected Friday. Lawyers said Stephan was expected to announce early. oext week that his investigation has been completed: Still, the case wouldn't be completely over. The parties would have several weeks to demand further tests or. questioning before Stephan draws his cooclusions. Diana, her hoyfriend Dodi Fayed and their driver, Henri Paul, were killed in the Aug. 31. 1997 crash in a Paris, traffic tunnel. Paul was drunk at the time. Nine photographers and a press motorcyclist who were tailing the Mercedes have been placed under formal investigation. — one step short of being formally charged — for manslaughter and failing to aid people in danger. The manslaughter charges are expected to be dropped, but a few photographers are expected to be formally charged and tried on the second, lesser charge.

Cambodian MP's face pay cut

PHNOM PENH (AFP) -- Cambodian MPs have been called on to accept a 70 per cent pay cut in a hid to defuse a teachers strike over low pay, the government. announced Friday. But alongside a proposed meaging payrise for teachers, the gesture of austerity still leaves the government facing an annual bill of more than million to hring the industrial action to an end Thousands of teachers have been on strike since Monday demanding their meagre \$20-a-mooth salaries be increased to \$300. The government Friday offered them a \$5 pay rise. It said savings from the MP's payout would amount to 3.5 billion riels (\$910.000) a year, but the proposed pay rise for teachers would cost 20 hillion riels (\$5.2 millioo). Although the plan has gained the approval of Prime Minister Hun Sen's Cambodian" People's Party (CPP), it has to win the support of coalition partner FUNCINPEC to pass the national assembly. Most MPs and government officials - many of whomare driven around in luxury cars and wear expensive. suits - are unlikely to be hit hard by a cut in their. \$1,200-to-\$1,500 official monthly wage. Their state: salary is generally viewed as supplementary to the financial perks available to those who hold positions of power

Dual nicotine replacements best to quit smoking

LONDON (R) - Smokers who really want to kick the habit should try a combination of nicotine replacement therapies, according to oew research published Friday, Instead of using a nicotine patch or a spray, use both Researchers in Iceland found the people who combined the two methods were twice as likely to be off cigarettes after five years than those who used only the patches. Dra Thorsteinn Blondal and scientists at the National University Hospital in Iceland studied 237 smokers over a six-year period. "Short and long term abstinence rates" show that the combination of using a nicotine patch for five months with a nicotine nasal spray for one year is a more effective method of stopping smoking than using a patch only," they said in a study published in The British Medical Journal. The researchers believe the combined method works because the patches release nicotine slowly but the spray is more rapid and helps smokers to overcome any suddeo urges for a cigarette.

Chinese man arrested for murder, rape of Japanese student

BEIJING (AFP) — Authorities in southwest Sichuan province have arrested a Chinese man in connection, with the murder of a Japanese student whose body was found floating in a river, the Huasheng News said-Friday. The hody of Reiko Fujimoto, a student at-Beijing's People's University, was recovered from river near the tourist town of Leshan oo Jan. 22. She had? been raped and beateo to death with a hlunt object. Police charged Tang Daming, a Chinese with whom Fujimoto had become acquainted at the Sujun hotel with the murder just four hours after the girl had died the newspaper reported. Witnesses told investigators that the two had a loud argument and a woman's scream was heard during a sightseeing boating excursion before the duo disappeared. Police later found Tang, still covered in hlood, at the Sujun Hotel where he confessed it the crimes, the report said. Fujimoto's student identity card and about 900 yuan (\$100) were also recovered.

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Charles and Camilla: Now it's 'almost' official

Prince Charles' first public appearance with his long-time mistress Camilla Parker Bowles has signalled a new phase in their search for public blessing for their relationship.

The heir to the British throne left a private Innction late Thursday with Parker Bowles to a hiaze of flashing lights front more than 100 photographers and television crews who had been waiting years

for such a moment. Tipped off to expect the couple's first joint poblic appearance, they had been staking their places on the pavement outside the plush Ritz Hotel since the day

before. Charles and Parker Bowles' appearance after years of avoiding paparazzi lenses - signailed the couple now view their relationship as "official," press commentators said.

Parker Bowles, 51, arrived for her sister Annabel Elliott's birthday party earlier than Charles, 50, along with her son Tom, 23, and daughter Laura, 20, but the couple left together.
As they walked down

the steps, Charles put a hand on ber back to steer ber to a waiting car, a sign of familiarity the press pack bad prayed for.

Their pictures domiotber. oated Friday's press, taking up whole front pages, with acres of devoted uewsprint

inside to the story. Charles and Parker Bowles have taken great pains never to be seen together in public, despite a relationship stretching back to before he married Diana. Princess of

The couple have been at the same functions, such as a society wedding late last year, but always arrived and left separately and discreet-

Their relationship hegan in the 1970s, but was put on hold when thev both married. Neither marriage survived.

After their respective divorces they attempted gradually to secure greater public acceptance, but that was again put on hold following Diana's death in Paris in the early hours of August 31, 1997.

It was Parker Bowles to whom Diana once referred when sbe spoke of "three of us in this marriage." She was reviled while Diana was alive and blamed for the hreak-up of the royal couple.

Since Diana's death, sbe and Charles had not appeared in public together, although they had been seen separately at occasions such as their respective 50th birthday parties, which each hosted for the

Thursday's appearance was a puhlic milestone, even though privately she



The Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker Bowles step out in public together for the first time, following the 50th birthday dinner-dance for Parker Bowles' sister. Annabel Elliott, at the Ritz Hotel in central London (AFI photo)

regularly overnight at Charles' London apartments in St. James' Palace and his home Highgrove, west London.

She has been introduced to both Prince William, 16, and 14year-old Prince Harry, Charles' sons by Diana. Opinion has softened

on her since Diana's death. The royal-hungry tabloids particularly have toned down their once virulent cov-

erage, "At last," the Mirror triumphed. "After 26 years. Prince Charles finally declares his love for the woman he has privately adored." The Daily Mail

Express ("It's official, we're a couple") had similar sentiments. In an editorial, the

("Together")

Sun wrote: "At last the world knows for surc she and Charles are a cuuple lo be reckoned with.

"They no longer have states. to hide their love

Indo-U.S. nuclear talks open in Delhi

NEW DELHI (AFP) -India and the United States resumed nuclear non-proliferation talks here Friday in an upbeat mood that masked the apparent lack of progress from seven previous rounds of discussions.

The two-day meeting hetween Indian Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh and U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strohe Talhott marks the eighth round of talks since India conducted a series of underground nuclear tests last May.

"It is high time this relationship is put on a much stronger footing." Talbott told reporters hefore the start.

"We have the highest hopes," he added. For his part, Singh said he looked forward

to "a very productive and useful round of talks. Although the dialogue

has been relatively friendly, there has been no tangible progress. with India flatly refusing to accept U.S. attempts to apply benchmarks to aspects of its nuclear policy. In an interview with

an Indian newspaper hefore Washington, admitted the two sides remained far apart on issues such as the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) regime, which India rejects as heing hiased in favour of the live recognised nuclear

"We simply disagree about that," said Talbott, who declined to predict a time-frame for the talks reaching some sort of resolution.

"Time frame? Daogerous to say, because ... at least forseeably, I think we are going to have to agree to differ for some time on NPT."

U.S. insistence that India sign Comprehensive Ban Treaty (CTBT) has been the main focus of the dialogue, together with fissile material production, export controls and other non-proliferation issues.

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee has promised India will sign the CTBT September.

India's underground nuclear explosions in May triggered retaliatory tests by Pakistan, and earned both countries a raft of global sanctions led by the United States.

As in the past, Talbott refused to be drawn on precisely what steps New Delhi would have to take in order for the sanctions to be lifted. "For (the dialogue) to

work, there really has to be a fair degree of confidentiality," he said.
The United States is

also trying to pin India down on its minimum defence requirements a move that Indian Defence George Fernandes was quick to reject Friday.

"What kind of deterretice we need will be decided by us and no one else can tell us what the level of that deterrence should be,"

Fernandes told foreign journalists

However, insisted he was not necessarily asking for "specific numbers" regarding India's defence strategy.

"But it is our hope that, in answering these cardinal questions of what constitutes sufficient and effective deterrence, what kind of military postures will truly enhance the safety of the Indian state, that India will choose to follow a path of restraint."

Talbott is expected to request clarification of press reports that India intends to carry out tests of a new-generation ballistic ntissile.

Washington already made it clear any such tests would only hamper negotia-

Singh is expected to protest continued U.S. opposition to World Bank loans to India. Similar restrictions on Pakistan have been eased, while India is awaiting around \$1.7 billion in World Bank loans.

Talbott said he understood the "ill feeling on the Indian side," hut reiterated that while sanctions were regrettable, they remained "a fact of life."

Talbott will be leading a U.S. delegation on a South Asian tour that will also take in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Immediately after his

Talbott will fly

discussions

Islamahad.

Bangladesh opposition spurn election chief's talk offer

DHAKA (AFP) — The Bangladesh opposition has rejected an invitation from Commissioner Mobammad Abu Hena for talks on holding peaceful monicipal polls, political sources said

here Friday. Letters were sent out to the major political parties, but they rejected the invitation after talks among members of an opposition alliance led the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, the sources

An official of the independent election commission was to narrow the gap between the commission and the political parties as well as persuade them not to work against the non-party three-day staggered municipal polls set to start Feb. 23.

The opposition was planning to enforce general strikes during the polls, newspapers reported. Newspapers quoted BNP leaders as saying the offer of

talks was rejected as the opposition's main demand is Hena's resignation.

An opposition member said it was true that members of opposition parties had registered as candidates

said the aim of the meeting in the polls, where members stand as individuals without party affiliations, but added it did not "reflect the real situation inside the parties ... they would be persuaded to

> withdraw." The opposition accuses Hena of bias in handling a by-election last month which it says the government won by fraud, a claim rejected by independent observers.

The opposition has already enforced one strike to protest the municipal polls. Three people, including two ruling Awami League activists were killed during Tuesday's strike, which was aimed at forcing the resignation of the election chief and the rescheduling of the municipal polls.

The alliance — the BNP, a Jatiya Party faction led by deposed president, Hussain Muhammad Ershad, the lundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami and the religious group Islami Oikkya Jote — has said it would continue protests to back its demands. A commission statement

would contest the municipal polls.

said 9,184 candidates, including 1,807 women.

It will be the first time women have been able to stand for municipal seats.

Vaccine reduces recurrence of bowel cancer surgery, but in only 25 of remained localised. But it in Hospital LONDON (R) --- An exper-University seemed to have little effect Amsterdam, said in a report

imental anti-cancer vaccine given to colon cancer after surgery reduced the recurrence of the disease. Dutch doctors said Friday.

The vaccine, called active specific immunotherapy or ASI, was customised for each patient. It contained cells from the tumour and a The second second strain of bacteria to kick start the immune system to kill any remaining cancer cells

Professors Jan Vermorken and Herbert Pinedo, of Vrije

in The Lancet medical journal that ASI "significantly lowered the rate of tumour recurrences."

Colon cancer is potentially curable with surgery but a successful outcome depends on the extent of the disease. The researchers tested the vaccine on patients with stage II and III colon cancer.

The vaccine showed significant results in padents with stage II colon cancer in which the tumour has penetrated the bowel wall but on patients with stage III cancer that has spread to the lymph пodes.

The researchers tested the vaccine made with a bacteria called bacilli Calmette-Guerin (BCG) on 254 patients with either stage II or III colon cancer. The parients were randomly selected and had either surgery or surgery and the vaccination.

After a five-year followup, immours recurred in 40 of the 126 patients who had

fishing grounds near the

t28 patients who had surgery and the vaccination. "One of the most appeal-

ing aspects of ASI in our trial was the quality of life of the patients during treatment. No patient discontinued treatment early because of side effects." the doctors

Colon cancer affects more than 3.5 million people worldwide each year. If the disease is detected early the five-year survival rate is 80-

Spanish fishermen threat anew to blockade Gibraltar

Rock.

ALGECTRAS, Spaio (AFP) Spanish fishermen issued a new threat Friday to blockade the Gibraltar border after police patrol boats confronted fishing vessels in waters near the Rock overnight, trade union sources said.

Several patrol boats from Gibraltar, a British colouy. harassed the Spanish fishermen, forcing them to return to port here, said Miguel Alberto Diaz. a leader of the CCOO trade union, quoted in the Spanish press.

He said the fishermen had decided to blockade the Spanish-Gibraltar border Friday in retaliation.

The row over fishing rights, simmering since the early 1990s, flared again Wednesday when Gibraltar police seized a Spanish fishing boat, arrested its 14member crew and confiscated its nets for illegal

fishing. Madrid believes the action was in breach of a verbal agreement between Spanish Foreign Minister Abel Matutes and his British counterpart Rohin Cook in October which allowed Spanish fishermen access to their traditional

That promise prompted fishermen to call off a border blockade planned for Thursday. But later Thursday the

Wednesday, the Spanish government was reported to have issued a 72-hour ultimarum to Britain to comply with the October agreement or face retaliation in the form of tight restrictions on the land frontier between

ntaioland. Madrid also said it would step-up protection of local

Gibraltar and the Spanish

British government denied it had received any forntal request from Spain. The Gihraltar government argues that fishing in the area should be banned for

ecological reasons. Spain does not recognise the Gibraltar government or British authority over the territory, which has been a crown colony since 1713.



Jordan Times

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Concerns worth studying

THE MEETING of the council of Arah interior ministers that hegan here vesterday was off to a good start when HRH Crown Prince Ahdullah inaugurated the deliberations on a variety of issues affecting Arah

There are several key issues on the agenda of the Arah meeting ranging from comhating organised crime, drug trafficking and terrorism, to cooperation in the fight against crime and the extradition of criminals. Terrorism is slated to he accorded the lion's share of the deliherations not only hecause it has become a global problem, but hecause many Arah countries suffer from its consequences. On this score we trust that the ministers will also discuss in an enlightened manner the root causes of terrorism that need to be taken into consideration and dealt with. It is never enough to fight any form of crime without dwelling on the factors that may have led to its commis-

Drug trafficking and related crimes will also figure high on the agenda of the Arab ministers, and rightly so. At this juncture the ministers might want to reconsider the imposition of the death penalty on drugrelated crimes and on drug trafficking. Many countries in the world have abolished the death penalty because of its inhumane nature on the one hand and hecause it is possible to lead to injustice.

The extradition of criminals is also a matter which is slated to receive special attention. In this vein, the ministers should approach with utmost care the issue of political crimes. Presumably extradition of common criminals is a relatively easy matter to resolve, but when it comes to politically-related crimes, we are faced with other criteria that the Arah ministers would have to reflect on before taking a final decision on the matter.

Crime and punishment is a complex suhject which requires scientific research in which socio-economic factors are taken into consideration. The tradition of Islam has decreed that when a crime like theft, for example, is committed during periods of poverty, thieves are exempted from the prescribed punishment.

While we commend the ministers on their quest for secure and stable societies, we note that real security depends on factors that include more democratic practices, a more equitable distribution of wealth and ahove all equipping young people with het-ter education that would help them to cope with life.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Dustour's editorial said the receot visits of Saudi Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz and U.S. Secretary of State Madelenie Albright lending their countries' congratulations to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Abdullah, the Regent, express their regard for His Majesty King Hussein's and Jordan's high position. There is no doubt that all Jordanians feel deep appreciation and gratitude towards brothers and friends, who have always been there to support Jordan and express feelings of solidarity, which increase the country's pride in the Hashemite leadership's role and achievements, added the editorial. Al Dustour said it was totally aware of the Saudi Prince's important, deep and sincere expressions, as well as Albright's personal and official support for the Kingdom, including the securing of economic assistance. The newspaper praised the two officials' visits, which, it said, were a result of King Hussein's efforts to strengthen Jordan's relations with countries around the world.

Al Dustour's Mikhael Jumai'an said the Arab foreign ministers' meeting failed because it did not meet Iraa's demands, especially concerning the coodemnation of U.S.-British aggression and the lifting of sanctions. There is no doubt that there were secret and serious efforts to destroy the meeting, said Jumai'an, who udded that it is also now certain that Iraq has implemented the U.N. resolutions and has reassured its neighbours that it no longer constitutes a danger to them. The recent aggression targeted senior Iraqi leaders. including Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, his deputy Taha Ramadan, Prime Minister Tareq Aziz, and Foreign Minister Mohammad Sahhaf, said the writer. Jumai an also warned that the Arabs must not involve themselves in illegitimate U.S.-Jewish attacks to destroy the Iraqi regime and the Iraqi people.

King's choice has people's support

MINISTER Fayez Tarawneh said it best: Jordan is in

The overwhelming joy and relief we all experienced wheo His Majesty King Hussein returned home on Jan. 19 after a six-month treatment abroad has been replaced by deep concern and anxiety over the relapse of his ailment. Almost everyone of His Majesty's subjects is today woodering whether he or she could do somethiog to make sure the King returns to our midst in full health. No sacrifice is too hig for our beloved Kiog, the head of our family. Many in Jordan and elsewhere have aptly adopted the theme "Hussein is Jordan and Jordan is Hussein" to emphasise the hood between the King and his family which includes every Jordaniao regardless of origin or hirthplace. Nothing could better explain the unique personality of our King. And today we are worried about his health and pray that it is only a passing phase in his eveotful life, and that he will be home amoog us soon to guide us through happy and difficult times. tures of His Majesty's ailment is the frankness with which Jordanians bave been kept informed.

Never in the life of an Arab bead of state has there heen a case where people are told of the truth concerning a leader's bealth. This has been for several reasons including concerns over political stability and security. And it shows that uncertainty about the future is the key word to describe those regimes, and that maiotaining continuity — which entails national stability and security is not assured.

Jordanians are lucky: we don't have such fears. We know that contiouity is assured, and the wise policies and course set by the King will be followed to the letter and spirit as he remains in hospital. That is what His Majesty made sure of with his decisioos taken during the few days he speot with us here last week. Those decisions were not necessarily limited to naming His Royal Highness Prince Ahdullah as our new crown prince. We hope

One of the most striking fea- to see soon the scope and impact of his decisions in all aspects of our lives. There is no uncertaioty there either. We are all fortified by the conviction that no decisioo taken by the King would have the welfare of his subjects as second priority. We are hearing a lot of noise from armchair observers outside Jordan that the King's choice of Prince Abdullah has cast a cloud over the politics of the Kingdom as a key regional player. To them we say, don't attempt to be more Jordanian than Jordanians themselves. The choice was made by Hussein, whose own reign was once predicted to have a short lifespan because of the absence of natural resources and the political turmoil that is so characteristic of the Middle East, yet who is the longest-serving head of state in the region confounding all those predictions. Those who predicted gloom for Jordan saw only natural resources as the key to progress and development. They overlooked the best assets Jordan had and has - His Majesty King

Jordanian Perspective



Musa Keilani

ple of Hussein's Jordan. Some have ventured to suggest that Crown Prince Abdullah's political acumen has not heen tested. May we turn around and ask them: Was the political acu-men of Prince Hussein tested when he actually assumed the Throne of Jordan at the age of 18? Can it be hrushed aside that Prince Ahdullah has spent most of his 37 years close to his father, learning the intricacies of political decision-making from some- sor.

one like King Hussein, whose statesmanship has become the stuff of legends? We Jordanians bave oo doubt whatsoever that our Crown Prince is more than fir and capable of performing whatever is expected of him, whether in the political, economic or social cootext of Jordan. After all, he has the endorsement of the smartest and most intelligent among us. King Hussein.

Over the years, the King has taught us not to allow our worries to cloud our judgement and obstruct our way forward. As such, we should not allow our concern for our dear King to ham. per our thinking. The best way we can respood and make him happy will be hy focusing more on our work and contributing to make Jordao a modern state.

While we continue to pray for his good health and early remm home, let us also not allow ourselves to be pried away from the immediate issues that concern us, and that hegins with aligning our selves fully and solidly behind King Hussein's choice of succes-



Tidbits from around the planet

Out to Lunch

EVER WONDER if your pets actually enjoy the food you feed them? Do you sometimes get the feeling that they only eat the mess in front of them for your benefit? Do you fear a pet coup brought about by an angry response to tasteless and horing food served to our not-quitebuman friends? Well, the time for anxiety is over, thanks to an industrious company in the U.K. which is bringing the advertising message direct to the animals themselves. Io an attempt to rectify one of the "conundrums" of the pet food advertising industry. spokesman for the ad agency put it. commercials will oow he aimed specifically at cats and dogs and not their human masters.

The goal of this revolutionary advertising campaigo is to generate a response, including ear and tail twitching, amoog the pets themselves by including certain sounds and images in the commercials that animals find appealing. These reactions on the parts of the pets will, presumably, eocourage their masters to huy this particular brand of food. The logic, therefore, if I understand this scheme correctly, is this: a pet-owner, seeing his or her beloved not-quite-buman companion leaping at or otherwise reacting to a commerical oo the television screen, is supposed to interpret this as genuine desire on the part of the animal for the product. The fact that pets bave no purchasing power

is cooveniently circumvented. While at first sight the plan looks good, a more thorough examination reveals some serious flaws. One is that pet-owners must ensure that tbeir pets behave properly and actually watch the commercial. The need for a buman agent, alas, still remains. Another problem is the disappointment that the animals tbemselves will certainly feel when it turns out that the food is just plaio pet food and doesn't really include images of fish and birds. Also, it is not clear whether the advertising company has taken into consideration possible epilepsyinducing effects that some images can bave.

Still, despite these reservations. this advertising campaign has my full eodorsement. The audiences

that can make judgements have long been exhausted, and even children are becoming more media savvy these days. Winoing the animals over should he as easy as shooting fish io a harrel.

Lost in Space

SOME PEOPLE just can't win. Aod some just don't deserve to. A man was recently apprehended in the U.S. minutes after robbing a cooveoience store. But don't commend the police for a quick, well-done joh: the suspect was filmed by a security camera wearing a hat that had his name and place of work written prominently on the front. All the authorities had to do to find the man and hriog him io to custody was make a phone call. Let's hope this person will develop a little more common sense in prisoo.

Standing Ready

THE HIGH death toll and lack of facilities for survivors of the recent earthquake in Colombia. which killed over 600 people, were hlamed on a lack of preparedness to deal with such a disaster. Perhaps if the government spent less time supporting right-wing death squads, who were responsible for a recent massacre of over 120 civilians, and less efforts to crush the FARC, it would he in a hetter positioo to help those in need.

In other news, ex-dictator Augusto Pinochet's tate haogs in the halance while Britain's law lords consider arguments presented by Amnesty International, the Chilean government, and the best defence lawyers military coup money can buy, among others. A Chilean air force plane, meanwhile, continues its looely vigil, waiting to fly the ageing senator-for-life back to his home country in the unfortunate event he is released. Now that is a level of readiness the Colombian government should take

RECOMMENDED READING: The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, by Douglas Adams. Worried about the future? Got a case of the "what's going to happen now" angst? Had a bad week? Wrap a towel around your head

Out of Order



Brian Brown

'Perhaps if the [Colombian] government spent less time supporting right-wing death squads... and less efforts to crush the FARC, it would be in a better position to help those in need'

and above all, Don't Panic! The Hitchhiker's Guide tells the story of Arthar Dent, the only human being left after the earth is destroyed to make way for an intergalactic by-pass. The novel also tackles such issues as bad poetry, the origins of the world, the true order of terrestrial intelligence (humans rank a poor third, after mice and dolphins), and the answer to the meaning of life (42). The Guide offers practical advice on everything that matters.

It's the King's decision

Compiled by Mohammad Ben Hussein

Columnists last week focused attention on His Majesty King Hussein's historic decision to appoint His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah as Crown Prince. They also commented on the continuous showdown between Iraq and the United States and the Arab League foreign ministers' meeting in

Al Ra'i's Fahed Fanek com-His Majesty Hussein's highly sensitive deciremove HRH Prince Hassan and replace him

with HRH Crown Prince Abdullah as his heir to the Throne, saying the Constitution gives the King the right to make such a change. Jordanians stand behind the King and support his decision, said Fanck. adding that the King's decision was predicted by many Jordanians who have monitored his statements and remarks in which he repeatedly hinted a change is definitely coming. The King appointed Prince Hassan as Crown Prince during a very critical moment in the country's and when the King's eldest son was only three years old. Now, says Fanek. the child is an adult and the country enjoys stability, which prompted the King to make such a decision. Replacing Prince Hassan does not, in any way, underestimate his achievements as crown prince for 34 years, said Fanek. Prince Hassan is intellectual and wise, but under the democratic monarchy system, the King has the final saying concerning who takes his place.

Al Arab Al Yawm's Salameh Ne'mat said the King's decision to appoint Prince Abdullah as crown prince is the first step in a series of reforms in the country. Ne mat charged that Jordanians are looking forward to seeing changes in the Kingdom's democratic process. Democracy in Jordan has faced many set-backs after it was launched in the late eighties due the continued crises in the region. Economic pressure and the peace treaty with Israel bas driven Jordan to close in on itself, he said. Ne mat said the one-personone-vote' electoral law and the heinous Press and Publications Law which has limited freedom of expression, both wiped out all accomplishments of the first four years of the democratic process. The writer said appointing Prince Abdullah as crown prince will lead to a feeling of settlement and contimuity in the country; key words for any possible reform. Ne mat predicted that appointing Prince Abdullah

will help Jordan play a greater role in the region, he said. Final status negotiations between the Palestinian National Authority and Israel as well as the deterioration in the Iraqi standoff with the United States oblige Jordan to opeo its doors and end the status of self-closure, said Ne mat. Jordan faces two choices: either to be key play-

er in the region or a playground for others. Dustour's Jihad Momani said when the the southern wanted in to tell the Arab foreign min in Cairo to discuss the leadi crisis, that their final statement

showing the Arab World's dissatisfaction with the attack is worthless and that it does not really care for them or their feelings as long as they do not issue a statement condemning the attack. The writer criticised Arab countries for issuing weak statements in order to win the American and British sansfaction, ignoring the feelings of 20 millioo Iraqis, crippled by inhuman sanctions. He said the U.S. does not respect its Arab allies who issued that statement. If it did, it would not have attacked Basra, one of the most important Arab cities, he said. The writer did not rule out the possibility that the U.S. attacked a civilian target on purpose to show the Arabs its determination to destroy the Iraqi people.

Al Ra'i's Mahmoud Rimawi said trag should not have slammed the Arab countries after the Arab League of Foreign Ministers meeting failed to meet its expectations. Iraq wants the Arab countries to reject and condenti American missile attacks, but Arab countries issued a milder statement. But the statement's meaning is clear in rejecting the attack, said the writer. The Arab ministerial meeting issued positive decisions which Iraq should appreciate. Among those decisions were: the emphasis that Iraq should remain united and a strong rejection of interference in its. internal matters, said Rimawi. The Arab League did not adopt a decision calling for the lifting of the sanctions, but the meeting coocluded that Arab countries are prepared to cooperate and coordinate with the United Nations Security Council to seek a near lifting of the sanctions, he added. What is special about the Arabs' meeting is that, for the first time, the Iraqi question has been addressed by Arab states who had bad relations with Iraq, he said. Iraq should not have criticised Arab countries because this will weaken Arab solidarity which is necessary to see the Iraqi people through their crisis, he added

By Paul Law

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Por South Lebanon: Peacekeeping is mission unaccomplished

Associated Press

King Hussin Iship has being legender Re hear and what we wat MORNING MIST was still rising Of pint whether is been a been from the silvery leaves of a hillside olive grove when nine Shiite Musof him whether of the limite to the limite to the limite. lim guerrillas set about their task: positioning a 106 mm recoilless cannon and preparing to fire a few quick rounds at an Israeli army outallingent anome to the passing group (

Su the passing group of United Su the passing group of content of the kind of the state g one ingsente did the only thing they could. They thought not all a approached the guerrillas — bearded, edgy, brandishing AK-47 rifles hinking. The head them to go away, old and male to shook hands and very, very politely asked

by toutsing their and talked quietly and reasonably, and talked quietly and reasonably, recounted Maj. Jerry Tuikoro, gesterous where he "I shook hands with each of them. recounted Maj. Jerry and recounted he grove where he turing toward the grove where he turing toward contingent of peaceand his small contingent of peace through and his small contingent of peace through and come scross the guerrillas from the Iranin-br timed allows in allows in-backed Hizbollah a few days Dr Drie Januar E. earlier. are to un that come.

The U.N. troopers, who are

allowed to use their weapons only in self-defence, must rely under such circumstances on persuasiveness. This time, it worked.

"They were frustrated." Tuikoro recalled. "They're trigger-happy, some of them! But we just kept on talking, and finalty they left." Even though this particular encounter ended peacefully, the U.N. troops like most of the half-dozen parties to the muddled proxy war in southern Lebanon - harbour few illusions about a reat halt to hostifities any time soon. There's always another morning, another hillside, another weapon of choice.

Since its creation in 1978, the nine-nation U.N. force has had the same mission: to verify an Israeli troop withdrawal, help the Lebanese government reassert sovereignty, and establish a secure area. The peacekeepers are the first to admit none of the goals has been achieved.

We've been lighting for our own survival, sandwiched between the warring parties," said Timur Goksel. a senior U.N. adviser, "Peacekeeping? You have to have peace to keep it." In the 1988 In the 985-square-kilometre U.N.-patrolled zone, Israeli troops and their affied Lebanese militia dodaily battle with the guerrillas of Hizhollah, along with lighters from other Islamist groups.

Also in the volatile mix is a dormant but potentially dangerous band of disaffected Palestinians who do not support Yasser Aradai's attempts to make peace with Israel.

It's a microcosm of the Middle East," Goksel said of the U.N. zone, which runs inland from the hiblical port city of Tyre toward the Israelioccupied Golan Heights. "The amount of ammunition flying around is quite something." With this welter of combatants, the peacekeepers often find themselves in the line of fire. Over the years, 222 of them have died.

In Israel, there is growing impetus - driven by steadily mounting casualties of their own - to find a way out of what is widely seen as a military morass. Israel keeps about 1.500 combat soldiers in a swath of

southern Lehanon to protect northem Israel from cross-horder attacks. But in spite of Israeli sentiment in favour of a negotiated pullback, the stage could be set for an escalation

of hostilities, Atter Hizbollah guerrillas rocketed northern Israeli towns in Decemher, the government of Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu threatened harsh retaliatory strikes, perhaps deep inside Lebanon. In one week in mid-January, Israel staged four straight days of air raids in the

wuth. The goerrillas say they will continue to exact revenge for the deaths of their own fighters as well as those of civilians.

Their December rocket attacks came after a stray missile killed a Lehanese woman and six of her

Few know the war's toll on ordinary villagers better than the people of Qana, a shell-pocked market town 11 kitometres north of the Israeli border. The Fijian contingent of the U.N. peacekeeping force is 'It's a microcosm of the Middle East'

based here - a circumstance that had unintended and horrific consequences nearly three years ago,

On April 18, 1996, at the height of an Israeli bomhing campaign against Hizbollah, about 800 villagers took refuge at the Fijian base, believing they would be safe there. Instead, the flimsy buts in which they were sheltering came under fire, and about 100 civilians died.

The exact number of dead remains unknown because the bodies of those killed, many of them women and children, were so badly man-

Near the site of the shelling, vil-

lagers have built a memorial of long marble tombs decorated with portraits of the dead. One of the shelled huis has been left as it was, except for a new roof. Blood-caked hlankets and scraps of burned metal still litter the charred floor inside.

Nawat Botgi, 48, who tost 20 relatives, wept as she recalled what happened that day, "Boom - no more tamily," she said.

"Everyone was dead." Israel said the shelling was a mistake, and accused the guerrillas of causing the catastrophe by staging attacks from civilian areas in full knowledge they would trigger retaliation.

But even if Hizbollah used vitlagers as a shield, support for the guerrillas has only grown stronger in Oana.

Posters of Hizbollah's leader, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, are everywhere, and the town is dotted with arresting tributes to dead guerrillas: larger-than-life, colourfolly painted metal cut-outs of hearded young men in turbans and rohes.

King The ayatollah who shook the world

By Paul Taylor Reuters

A FRAIL, white-bearded man sat cross-legged on a Persian rug in a suburban buogalow near Paris and spoke in a faint monotone into a cassette-recorder. And the world trem-bled.

Twenty years ago next week, Aya-The Land of the iollah Ruhollah Khomeini, an ascetic . The filtric online je Shi'ite Muslim clergyman, returned to Iran to a turnultuous welcome to A SH B lead ooe of this century's great upheavals - the first Islamic revolu-

 $\mathcal{F}_{ij}^{(i)}$, which is the first state of the $\mathcal{F}_{ijk}^{(i)}$ Exploiting a national network of mosques, the Shi'ite cult of martyrdom and the strange indecisiveness of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. Khomeini replaced one of the Middle East's richest U.S.-backed oil monarchies with an austere theocratic state. "We will eod foreign domination in

Iran. America cannot do anything." the ayatollah vowed in an interview with Reuters shortly after he settled in the village of Neauphle-le-Chateau, near Versailles, in October

"Do not be afraid to give up your lives and your belongings in the service of God, Islam and the Muslim Nation," he told his followers in one of the taped messages that sent millions of unarmed demonstrators into the streets to brave the Shah's army.

Unlike many revolutionary systems, the Islamic republic that Rhomeini built has endured despite a 20-year confrontation with the United States, an eight-year war with Iraq and waves of hombings, assassinations, executions and power strug-

Khomeini, who became supreme leader with sweeping powers under the constitution adopted in 1979. died in his hed a decade later, revered by most Iranians but reviled in the

His mausoleum in south Tehran is a shrine for pilgrims.

While the revolution devoured many of its children in spasms of violence, Muslim cleries still wield most power in Iran.

The complex institutional checks and balances developed by Khomeini to guard against a coup and prevent one faction from monopolising power provide the framework for a permanent power struggle among his

The contrast between the Shah. whose imperial family flaunted its fabulous petrodollar wealth in gaudy ceremonies, and the avatollah, who lived frugally on a dict of bread, fruit, nuts and yoghurt, could hardly have been more stark.

Twice a day, the stern old man in dark robes and a black turban indicating descent from the Prophet

Muhammed, crossed the Route de Chevrense under French police guard to lead prayers and deliver sermons

in a hlue-and-white tent pitched in

the garden of the twostorey house that served as his headquarters.

Students, husinessmen, clergymen and politicians flucked to Paris from Iran and the

diaspora in Europe and the United States of ıaik and pray with Khomeini after President Valery

Giscard d'Estaing gave him temporary refuge. The ayatollah listened to moderate

advice but held firm to his course. dismissing calls for compromise to avert bloodshed.

There will be no compromise with the Shah. Until the day an Islamic republic is established in Iran, the struggle of our people will continue."

Khomeini said in the interview. The turbulent cleric had been expelled from Iraq under pressure from the Shah, seeking to end a

> revolt against his rule spearheaded hy Shi'ite religious leaders, demonstrating students and strik-

ing workers. He had launched his hattle to drive the

Shah from his cock throne" 1962-63, monarch's White

Revolution land reforms as un-Islamic and denouncing the immunity privileges of U.S. advisers and oil companies in Iran.

He was exited first to Turkey, then

to the holy city of Najal in Iraq. In Neauphle-le-Chateau, Khomeini was surrounded by a circle of Westem-educated aides who went on to play key roles in the early revolutionary governments before heing sidelined by Islamic hardliners.

A large sign in English and Persian outside Khomeini's headquarters proclaimed "The ayatollah has no spokesman." But the men who assured journalists that Iran would be a liberal Islamic democracy would qualify nowadays as spin doctors.

Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, an economist who lived in Paris, acted as his interpreter and secretary. He was elected the first president of the Islamic republic in 1980 before being mobs a year later, fleeing for his life to the French capital. Sadeq Qotbzadeh, a former anti-Shah student activist expelled from

hounded from office by hardline

the United States in 1969 and who had a Syrian passport, became head of radio and television, then foreign minister. He resigned in 1980 and was executed in 1982 for allegedly plotting to overthrow Khomeini.

Ehrahim Yazdi, a cancer researcher who lived in Texas, was Khomeini's chief English-speaking aide. He sought to persuade the West that the Islamic movement was not manipulated by the Soviet Union or bent on anarchy.

He became foreign minister in the first revolutionary government but was forced out for trying to end the occupation of the U.S. emhassy by militant students in November 1979 after Washington admitted the deposed Shah for medical treatment.

Yazdi today heads a small, semilegal opposition party, the Iran Freevenient hot has tittle influ-

Khomeini's other contident was his second son Ahmad, a mullah telergyman) who was his closest aide during his decade at the helm of the Islamic republic and the key link with the students occupying the U.S. emhassy. He died in 1995.

Khomeini's elder son, Morteza, had died during their exile in Iraq after being visited by two Iranians suspeeted of being agents of the Shah's hated SAVAK secret police.

The ayatollah's wife, Batul, accompanied him in France but played no

public role. Interviewing Rhometni was a strangely impersonal experience.

Questions were submitted in writing and Bani-Sadr translated the written replies before the reporter was admitted for a brief meeting with the ayatollah.

Israeli entrepreneur seeks

There was no handshake. Khomei-

ni stared at the carpet while speaking rather than seeking eye-contact with the interviewer.

Some of his delphie statements required interpretation. When he said: "We will cut off the hands of the foreign agents," aides hastened to explain he meant rooting out foreign domination in Iran, not severing

As the revolution moved towards a climax, sending world oil prices soaring to record levels, the throngs of supporters and journalists swelled at Neauphle.

The French authorities who had initially treated Khomeini with caution, warning him three times to refrain from political statements, gave him VIP treatment.

Two weeks after the Shah left Iran on "holiday" on January 16, never to return, the ayaiollah, his entourage and several dozen journalists boarded an Air France Jumbo Jet for Tehran. despite threats by the Iranian government to shoot it down.

The volunteer crew had take on twice the normal load of fuel in case they were forced to turn back. The plane had to circle for more than half an hour over Tehran while final negotiations for permission to land were conducted.

A crowd estimated at more than one million people was waiting to greet the revolution's spiritual leader as the Air France stewards helped him down the gangway at Mehrabad

Ten days later, the remnants of the Shah's last government under the hapless Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar were swept away in street

The Middle East was never the

The Saturday Crossword

NOT THE PRESIDENTS By Josiah Breward, Scranton, Pennsylvania

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111 World supporter? 112 Highlanders 114 Attract 115 Egress 118 Kajch's sister

energy in the waves By Jennifer Friedlin Remers ISRAEL IS not known for its abundant natural resources, but emrepreneur Shmuel Civadia says he has invented a way to turn the waves along the country's coastline into electric energy.

Ovadia, chief executive of S.D.E. Energy & Desalination Ltd, said his U.S.-patented pneumatic wave energy converter exploits the intrinsic power and nature of the sea to create an environment-friendly and cheap energy alternative.

For this system you just need the sea and waves," said Ovadia at port of Jaffa, where a prototype of his wave energy converter has been installed.

Standing on top of the port's sea defence wall, Ovadia, a 46-year-old wood manufacturer who did his army service in the engineer corps, points to two green metal huovs bohbing in the water below.

As the waves force the buoys up and down, they activate pistons that, working on hydraulic oil, power a motor which drives an electric generator located in a small, obscure shack behind the sea wall.

Ovadia said his wave energy converter is different from the 50 or so other systems developed worldwide heeause it exploits the underlying force of the wave and not just its

The prototype, which occupies only five metres of heach front, would he able to generate up to 40 kilowatts of electricity a day, but Ovadia said he could build a plant which would create up to four megawatis a day.

That would be enough to light up a village of 40,000 households with a source of power that would cost less than \$0.02 per kilowatt — a fraction of what it costs to produce energy from coal, gas or oil.

Although the system is suited only to beach-front communities that have constant exposure to waves. Ovadia said the device would he ideal for undeveloped locales.

"We are speaking about a small system for areas in the Third World where there is no electricity," he said. "The idea is to help the Third World with a cheap, efficient and easy way to set up an electricity source." And Ovadia's system offers another added attraction. As a byproduct, a four megawati system can desalinate up to 500 cubic metres of drinking water an hour, he

Sound too good to be true? Scientists and engineers familiar with Ovadia's project admit the idea seems like a pipe dream, but they quickly add that the wave energy converter has potential.

"Surprisingly, this system works," said Tzur Naaman, a power and lighting engineer who served as an advisor to S.D.E.

Orna Berry, Israel's chief scientist, said that although Ovadia's projeet has certain structural faults her office contributed \$100,000 towards funding the project hecause of its promise.

"I would classify S.D.E. as being very far from commercialisation. but their value shot up because some U.S. states are saying that by 2000 a certain percentage of energy must come from alternative sources," she said.

The port city of Ashdod has also granted Ovadia a site to huild a four inegawatt station.

The only problem now is cash. Except for the chief scientist, Ovadia has not succeeded in drawing

He said he is now considering floating shares in S.D.E. on a stock exchange in order to raise the \$3.5 million to \$4.0 million needed to get the Ashdod plant up and run-

ning. Ovadia has also launched a marketing hlitz trying to convince some 300 potential investors, including the World Bank, that his project is not just a waste of energy.

"We think this is a very serious project, but not everyone does." Ovadia said.

Industrial powers differ on reform of global financial system

Switzerland (AFP) — Financial leaders of the major industrial powers agreed here on Friday on the need for swift action to reform the global financial system to cope with global financial crises. but differed on how this should be achieved.

While economic officials agreed that the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial nations must share the burden of keeping the world economy on track, they were less unanimous on how to achieve this, and on how far they should go in efforts to limit fluctuations between the dollar. the ven and the euro.

British Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown called at the World Economic Forum annual gathering here for a "decision by the summer" on a new system for "crisis preven-tion and resolution" which should be in place this year.

French Finance Minister Dominique . Strauss-Kahn said he hoped that at a G-7 finance ministers' meeting in February "we will be able to make the decisions we really need" on organisation and regulation of the global economic and financial system.

Brown said that "we should recognise that we have a global ... financial system," and acknowledge the need for a new global standing committee for regular and consistent surveil-

"My proposals for moving forward this year are a form of hurden sharing," Brown said, stressing the need for the European Union, the United States and Japan "all of us, and l stress all of us, playing our part in moving forward with the international economic reforms that we should now make.

Strauss-Kahn called for a "commitment by G-7 members to strengthen their cooperation by even more frequent meetings, systemanc coordination.

He also said that the "three poles" of the world monetary system. Japan, the United States and the European Union, should meet to discuss the situations of the dollar, the yen

and the euro.

"Even though a target zone system or something like it" to limit fluctuations between the three currencies "is not really possible now," Strauss-Kahn said. there was a need for a new commitment to more cooperation, including between the 11 countries of the euro

But U.S. Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Surnmers was less enthusiastic both on the speed at which decisions needed to be taken on reforms of the international financial system, and the necessity of tighter G-7 cooperation.

Summers said that while

cooperation and coordination between the G-7 countries was desirable, "I would record some scepticism about the view that merely more frequent or improved statements hy ministers or government would serve by themselves to stabilise exchange rates."

He also warned against the view that national monetary policies "rather than being addressed to national objectives ... should instead

be addressed to other international objectives."

European Central Bank (ECB) President Wim Duisenberg also rejected the idea of a fixed exchange rate objective for the euro, but said this "does not imply that the euro- dollar rate will be neglected, it does not imply that it will he unstable or volatile."

The ECB is not "opposed reasonably stable exchange rates ... quite the contrary," Duisenberg said. Japanese vice-minister of finance for international affairs Eisuke Sakakihara agreed it was "important to proceed speedily on the issue of a new international

financial architecture." But he warned that "the hasic cause of the crisis has not been eliminated." and said moves must be made to monitor and possibly undertake the "prudential regulation" of the huge amounts of capital moving round the world, how to handle exchange rates and the possible creation of a "lender of last resort" if globalisation was to work.

Sakakihara said the yen at

its current level enables Japanese exporters to be competitive.

The ven's rate at above 130-140 to the dollar late last year was the result of extremely short positions taken by investors such as hedge funds at the height of concern over the Japanese economy. Sakakibara told the World Economic Forum

But "the financial crisis is ahout to be over and the rate has returned to its precrisis level." Sakakihara

"At the curent level of 115-116. many Japanese exporters are quite compet-

He also said he "would not be that optimistic on the real side of the economy for 1999." hut "I think I could say that hy the middle of 99 the Japanese economy will hortom out."

"There are some indications that October-December gross national product figures for '98 may be zero or slightly positive, but I don't know whether that will be continued into the January-March period," he

It takes time for confidence to be restored," Sakakibara said. "I think it will take some time for the real economy to bounce back."

Summers said he was not sure there were any "easy answers" to the problems facing the international financial system althogh they were "very fundamental issues that will require close attention from the international community over the next year."

The most important thing is that we have a coordinated approach and ... develop strategies to deal with this kind of problem," said German Deputy Finance Minister Heine

Flassbeck. German President Roman Herzog opened the global husiness summit on Thursday hy demanding tougher international regulation of financial markets to curb volatility and restore trust in capitalism.

"Guardrails around the markets are needed here to prevent panicked reactions and create confidence in the

Exchange Rates

reliability of markets," he told the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in the Swiss Alpine resort of Davos, citing recent market turmoil.

Echoing calls from Germany's new centre-left government for more stahility on foreign exchange markets. Herzog urged rich nations' governments and central hanks to coordinate economic policy more closely to foster growth and avoid currency swings.

The European and Japanese concepts on stahilising the exchange rates among euro, dollar and yen should not be rejected out of hand as dogmatic heresy," he said in an apparent swipe at the more laissez-faire United States.

U.S. officials have played down the need for any kind of target zones for currencies that proponents say could help block huge and often damaging flows of capital.

U.S. economist Fred Bergsten, of the Massachusetts Institute for Technology said that target zones between major currencies

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stability for the global financial system. He expected the dollar to fall in 1999 with potentially

serious consequences for

the world economy. "One of the major global economic events of 1999 is likely to be a sharp decline in the exchange rate of the dollar." Bergsten wrote in a paper he presented on Fri-

He said fundamental equilibrium rates calculated hy the Institute for International Economics which he heads suggested the euro should trade between \$1.25 and \$1.30, up from current levels around \$1.14.

The same fundamentals suggested a rate of one dollar to 100 yen. That compared with 116.60 on Thursday.

But because market rates typically overshoot, "the dollar could depreciate well beyond these levels in its initial fall," he said, noting any such move could hun Japan's growth and increase unemployment in Europe.

U.S. pushes for change at IMF

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States is pushing for key changes at the IMF after the financial crises roiling world markets last year helped build momentum for reform, a top U.S. official has said.

The global economy has changed greatly in

E-mail: sweis@index.com.jo

recent years, and the IMF has to change with it." Deputy U.S. Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers told a U.S.

Senate panel. He said the United States has pressed successfully for some reforms at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and would continue to press for more.

"I have no doubt that without an IMF ... the costs of these crises would have heen even higher and the impact on our own economy and markets much more severe," he said.

However, "to say that

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the IMF is indispensable is not to say we should be entirely happy with the IMF we have today," he

Summers called for more transparency at the IMF and said it must work with others in the international community to ensure that the private sector shares more in the costs of financial crises.

The United States is also pressing the IMF to cooperate better with the World Bank, Summer said, so that IMF programmes are less likely to suffer from lack of attention to the social and political challenges faced in borrower countries.

"Sound macroeconomic policies are important, but they are far from suf-

The IMF has been criticised for pressuring borrower countries to raise interest rates in order to attract capital and thus remain capable of making debt payments.

High interest rates can carry the risk of pushing an economy into recession.

The recession gripping Asia and the financial crisis that spread to Russia and Brazil in recent months prompted calls for a broader IMF focus on including private bank lenders and investors in efforts to preempt turmoil in emerging mar-

Summers said the United States had successfully lobbied for the IMF to continue and extend its key policy of lending to countries even when they are in arrears on debt payments to private cred-

Such a policy can be "a useful signal to private creditors that encourage them to share the burden economic ment," he said.

In this way, private creditors cannot indulge in imprudent loans. he stressed.

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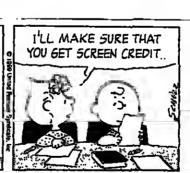
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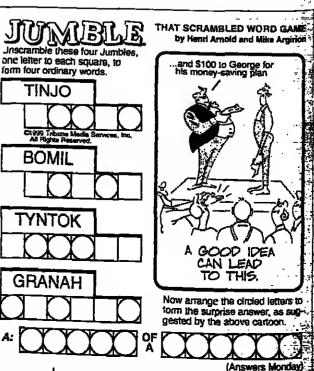


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Andy Capp







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A review of news from the Arabic Press

Need for housing estimated to have risen to 38,000 units each year

** ACCORDING TO a latest study prepared by the society of investors in the housing sector, the need for housing has increased to 38,000 units each year due to population growth, which is among the highest in the world, and the waves of immigration to Jordan. Coosequently, and in the light of the bousing problem in the Kingdom, the society has asked the government to cancel all the measures that hinder investments in this sector and to enact the necessary and appropriate laws to encourage it.

"To consolidate the role of this sector in production and financing, after the establishment of the Jordan Mortgage Refinance Company, it is imperative to expand the lending system in order to secure housing loans to low income groups taking into consideration long periods of repay-ment," the society said. "Such expansion in financing on easy terms would allow the private sector at the end to set up housing projects for lowincome groups while leaving the field open for demand/supply/competition factors to meet the housing needs of all social groups."

The society stressed that in order to improve the efficiency of the real estate market and to reactivate or revitalise this important sector, the need arises for government intervention to support the less fortunate families by providing them with suitable housing units through a number of measures. Most importantly, the study proposed lowering the taxes and fees on building materials as they (taxes

and feest were found to account for 30 per cent of the real estate cost,

Other recommendations sought lowering the high 10 per cent tax of the total estimated value of the lands or real estate and exempting the investors from paying real estate tax on buildings constructed for sale. The society complained that the 10 per cent tax should be paid upon each sale deal and suggested that a mechanism be set up whereby the tax would not be required if a number of deals took place on a certain property within a specified period.

The society proposed amending the rent law so as there would be mi more barriers for investments in housing for rent purposes. Noting that it takes about 60 days for an investor to obtain approvals starting from the day of purchasing the land until receiving the licences, the society asked for simplifying the measures for setting up housing projects. In addition, the society highlighted the importance of providing the necessary infrastructure in the areas where such services are at a low level.

Finally, the study called for amending building requirements to correspond with the high prices of land at present. The study noted that multistorey buildings would minimise housing costs, allow for the best usage of land and lessen the cost burden on the government from having to provide the infrastructure services (Al Arab Al Yawm).

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 1998 By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) The moon's transit through Leo this weekend recharges you with boundless enthusiasm. You could run, or you could ride a bike or motorcycle, just as long as it gets you moving and away from a building full of pre-breathed air and

cines straining to see past their own smog. What are you waiting for? Get going! TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Looks like there's some controversy at home. One person wants things one way, another insists it won't work. You may have to come up with a com-

promise. This is surprising, since you usually have a firm opinion. But this situation isn't quite as important to you as it is to the others. so you can be a little more flexible. Let them GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Gemini is the

sign of the perpetual student, and today you'll find lots to learn. These are not the kinds of things you can get out of books, though. If you're like most Geminis, you tend to get stuck in your head. Today, get out into the real world. Roller-blade to work, or something similarly adventurous. Its time to get your CANCER: (June 22 to July 22) This starts out

a dreamy, cuddly kind of day, excellent for non-verbal communication with a person you know well and would like to know even better. Just follow your intuition, and your heart. Once you have a deep understanding, you'll weather any storm. That's good, because a couple of squalls could come up later in the

LEO: (July 23 to August 22) The pieces of the puzzle are starting to fall together, and everything suddenly makes sense. You may still lack a few items to build what you envision. but don't worry, you'll find them soon. Its always easier to see what the other person is missing, and that's the case today. Someone else will point out whatever you've over-

VIRGO: (August 23 to September 22) The problems you've been dealing with lately are still there. They're not going anywhere, so you can relax. And you can tell that to anyone who leans on the today and tries to get you to move laster Actually, you can move with the speed of light when you feel like it, but today you

Just might not. Set your own pace. LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) You're the one people go to when they can't

get along with each other. You have a knack for this. Yours is the sign of the moderator, the counselor and the diplomat. You help people calm down by listening to them carefully, no matter how bizarre their ideas. The challenge. again, is to get them to see from the other per-

son's point of view. SCORPIO: (October 24 to November 21) Somebody wants to take centre stage, and might even shove you out of the way to get there. Don't put up a fuss. You might pretend to be dismayed, but truth he known, you're secretly delighted. With good reason. This person is going to have to take the brunt of the criticism, and it'll be substantial. Try not to let anyone catch you chuckling.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Travel is a Sagittarian obsession, and you'd probably do it every minute it' you could. In fact, many Sagittarians work in the airline industry, or drive buses or trucks, so they're always on the move. This weekend is good for travel, but its also good for studying. and there's lots you want to learn. Take the main, so you can read while you're moving. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Before you entrust your money to somebody else, make sure you know how its going to be spent. How much of your charitable contribution goes to fancy salaries for staff." There could be a discrepancy between what you think you're getting, and what's actually happening. Check your insurance coverage too, while you're at it.

AOUARIUS: (January 20 to February 18) You're probably in the mood to wax eloquent today, and well you might. Quite a few people out there could use a little of your wisdom. Unfortunately, they don't seem to realise how wise you are; they keep wanting to argue with you. Show them by not only proving your point, but also listening to theirs. That'll take them by surprise!

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) A minor altereation could turn into a knockdown, dragout fight, and you don't want to get involved. Doesn't look like its any of your business or your problem. So if you notice a couple of beefy types starting to get belligerent, give them plenty of moni. If you have an opinion, keep it to yourself. No point in wasting it.

Birthstone of January: Garnet --- Rose Quartz

Trading rises but prices weaken at AFM

By Tarey Ayyouh

AMMAN — Turmiver at the Annual Financial Market (AFM) recorded a tangible increase last week amid speculations that concerns for His Majesty King Hussein's health would continue to affect trading on the stock market next week, a broker said Friday.

According to the AFM's weekly bulletin, turnover amounted to JD16 million during the five-day trading compared to the JDt.t mitlion posted during the oneday trading in the previous

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The butletin indicated that the price index slipped to

175.5 from 176.63 points in the previous week. The industrial sector recorded a 3.3 point increase while other sectors registered declines in share price, the

butletin showed. The industrial ranked first with a turnover of JD10.6 million, or 66.3 per cent of the total, followed hy the hanking sector which accounted for JD3.3 million,

20.6 per cent. The services sector's share of the total was JD2 million,

99-01-27

CHANGE

or 12.5 per cent and finally the insurance sector trailed with only JD100,000.

Naim Nageeb, a broker, said trading at the AFM was very active in the beginning of the week but was affected later by the return of the King to Mayo Chnic.

"Investors will watch the simution carefully and wait for news about the King's health before they undertake any activity on the floor this week," Nageeb told the Jordan Times.

He noted that trading last week focused on the mining and pharmaceutical compa-

nies. The cement and potash shares gained 19.2 per cent and 10.4 per cent of the turnover respectively. The Pharmaceutical

Manufacturing Company's

share of the turnover amounted to 13.7 per cent. Arab Bank, the major bluechip, registered JD2.4 milhon in trading volume but its share price declined by JD4 on concern about the King's

The Housing Bank ranked second with a jurnover amounting to JD454,158, but also its share price dropped by five per cent, the bulletin

bealth.

showed.

Trading in the service sector focused on the Jordan Electric Power Cumpany with a turnover of JD1.4 mil-

The Parallel marker's share of the turnover amounted to JD847,602 where the hulk of this figure was registered by the Union Investment com-

Out of the \$0 tirms that changed hands on the floor, 28 companies recorded increases in their prices, 40 registered declines while 12 tirms witnessed no change in

Ford pays \$6.5b for Volvo cars in global fight for power

STOCKHOLM (AFP) --Volvo has agreed to self its the sale of the car division car division to Ford of the United States for about 5.08 hillion euros, the two groups said Thursday, marking a giant step in a global tight for market share and putting Scania in the front line.

The Volvo name is to be shared between the two groups.

The unitouncement was made against a background of months of rumours and reports of negotiations between many leading auto groups, notably in Europe. and might cause some soulsearching in Sweden where Volvo cars strike a chord of national identity.

Honda.

Shortly after the announceentire Volvo company. And the parent Volvo com-

merger or links with the Swedish truck manufacturer Scania Brokers said that the market would now expect Volvo to use the cash from Ford to make a full bid for Scania, of

pany immediately reaffirmed

here that it was interested in a

enough cash and so there is nothing to stop it from going

er with Scania, Analysis said would provide Voivo with eneugh cash to place an outright bid.

Ford has been reported to be in talks with BMW of Germany and Japanese

The sale, for 50 billion Swedish kronor or about \$6.5 hillion, is conditional on Volvo shareholders' as well as customary regulatory approval.

ment, sources close to Fiat in Turin said that the Italian group had made an unsuccessful bid for the hand of the

which it acquired 13 per cent two weeks ago.
"There with definately be a bid for Scania by Volvo now. This deal means Volvo has

ahead," one broker said. Immediately after the announcement Volvo signalled interest in a full merg-

The Volvo share price rose

3.5 per cent to 220,50 kronor in early trading, white Scania shares jumped by 6.8 per centto 252 kronor, One analysi said: "If Volvo

doesn't manage to buy up Scania, then there are many other options within the construction equipment segment and in the North American truck industry for example," Volvo will have about 50-

60 billion kronor in eash, and together with loans it will probably command over a purchasing sum of about 80-100 bitlion kronor, which is definitely enough to buy something fairly big in the North American truck industry," he said.

Volvo Chairman Haakan Frisinger said of the deal with Ford: "This is a solution which strongly enhances both the prospects for Volvo cars, its employees and for the Volvo Group as a whole." Analysts here said Ford

was a good match for Volvo which would benefit from Ford's research and development, and also gain full access to the U.S. market. quality brand needed by Ford

and smaller Fords on the hard-fought European mar-The Volvo line would compere more with Saab which is part owned by GM.

between its luxuary Jaguars,

In Detroit, Michigan, the president of Ford Motor Company, Jacques Nasser, said: Volvo is a premium automotive brand with unique appeal that represents a good opportunity to profitably extend our tineup and grow the Ford business

Referring to a reputation that Volvo cars are tough and safe, he described Volvo as "a perfect complement to the Ford family."

Ford would take ownership of all of Volvo's cars facilities worldwide, including three major assembly plants and two powertrain plants in Europe and Volvo's passenger vehicle product development centre at Gothenhurg, Sweden.

Volvo, after disposing of Volvo cars, its higgest husiness, is to concentrate on its commercial products and related businesses, including trucks, buses, construction equipment and marine engines, Volvo said,

Swedish Rappon television news, quoting sources close to the deal, said that Fiat of Italy had offered more than Ford for Volvo but had demanded that the Heavy Trucks division be included in the deal.

There has been speculation for months about a full or part sale of Volvo. Ford, Fiat, Volkswagen of Germany and U.S. General Motors (GMt had been mentioned as potential hidders,

Ford has informed Volvo that Volvo Cars will continue to be managed from Gothenburg.

Cars' "Volvo prospects will, by being an important part of one of the world's largest and most profitable groups, improve considerably," Volvo Chief Executive Leif Johansson

Volvo Car's President Tuve Johannesson is to remain in his position.

Volvo will continue to use its own name for commercial products, and Ford will have the right to use it for passenger cars, minivans, sports utility vehicles and light

Over 80 per cent of bosses optimistic for growth — study

worldwide.

Switzerland (AFP) - More than 80 per cent of senior company chiefs worldwide are optimistic about their firm's growth prospects in the next three years, according to a survey published Thursday.

Even in Asia, where last year's tinancial crisis is still producing ripples, 70 per cent of bosses are confident. according to the survey by consultants Price Waterhouse Coopers.

"Pervasive optimism among chief executive officers signals that there will be little reluctance to make the investments necessary to fuel growth, said Price Waterhouse Coopers CEO James J. Schiro. Top business leaders see

the development of electronic commerce as a key priority for their companies. according to the survey launched at the study at the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in the Swiss ski resort of About a tifth of those

questioned believe that electronic commerce will generate some 20 per cent of their turnover within five years, it reported, also noting widespread belief that the U.S. technological supremacy will have disappeared in the same period. What we are seeing in

the global e-business arena is not merely evolution, but revolution: A new way of doing business, driven by new technologies including the Internet, resulting in new value propositions in many industries," said Schiro. The study was based on

questioning of some 800 senior company chiefs in America, Asia, nomh Europe and Latin America between September 1998.

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Kafelnikov downs Haas to reach Open final



Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia on left shakes hands with Tommy Haas of Germany after their semifinal match at the Australian Open Tennis Championships, Melbourne, Australia, Friday. Kafelnikov won the match 6-3, 6-4, 7-5 (AP photo)



Martina Hingis of Switzerland, right, poses with her doubles partner Anna Kournikova of Russia after they won the doubles final hy 7-5, 6-3, over Lindsay Davenport, USA and Natasha Zvereva at the Australian Open Tennis Championships, Melbourne, Australia, Friday (AP photo)

MELBOURNE (R) -Yevgeny Kafelnikov routed Germany's Tommy Haas 6-3 6-4 7-5 on Friday to spare the 1999 Australian Open a duhious place in tennis his-

Tenth seed Kafelnikov brushed aside the 20-yearold German in a 113-minute semifinal to rule out the prospect of the first unseeded men's singles final in the Open era,

The Russian, however, quickly claimed in-form Thomas Enqvist would start Sunday's final as favourite after the icy Swede won two Open warm-up tournaments and beat two seeds including twice U.S. Open winner Pat Rafter —. in the early rounds here.

chances hut I feel like I'm definitely the underdog," Kafelnikov, the 1996 French Open champion,

Saturday's womeo's final will also see a seeded player meet an unseeded opponeot, although that match has heen overshadowed hy an off-court spat over comments hy the world's leading two players about unsung finalist Amelie Mauresmo of France.

Defending champion Martina Hingis, who faces Mauresmo in the final, was reported to have said at a German-language news conference on Thursday that the powerfully-huilt French teenager was "half a man". German reporters "Hopefully I will get my said :Hingis's exact words

were: "Sie ist ein halher Mann." But Hingis denied on Friday she had ever made the remark.

"A half-man? Who would say that?" Hingis said. "She's a girl, she's playing tennis...very good and 1 have to heat her on court. somewhere else." Hingis, who earlier woo her fifth successive grand slam doubles title, said she had talking about been Mauresmo's style of play.

World number one Lindsay Davenport angrily accused reporters of taking out of context comments she made after losing to Mauresmo in a thrilling semifinal on Thursday.

Davenport said after that match that 19-year-old Mauresmo hit the hall so hard at times she "thought I was playing a guy.

"Unfortunately you guys love to write, you know, the worst line possible and unfortunately you have prohably hurt a very nice girl," Davenport told a news conference after she and Natasha Zvereva were beaten hy Hingis and Anna Kournikova in the women's doubles final.

Mauresmo's expressed surprise at the comments hy Hingis and Davenport as the World No. 29 prepared for her first grand slam final.

"She thought everyone would talk about her tennis and not her private life," coach Christophe Fournerie told Channel Seven televi- . sion. "That is a bit surpris-

ing for her because she's stantly, slamming 16 aces young." There was no room long rallies.

doubt Kafelnikov's performance, the Russian starting strongly against a tentative Haas and gaining important early service hreaks in the first two sets.

Haas had never before made it past the third round in a grand slam tournameot. He began nervously and the match was almost over by the time he hegan to find his range with damaging groundstrokes in the third

Kafelnikov completely outplayed Haas, breaking the haseliner's serve in the 11th game of the final set and then calmly serving out the match to love.

He varied his tactics conbecause Tommy beat me

and also drawing Haas into

Kafelnikov said he would need to adopt similar tactics more than 30 years of Open against Enqvist, who heat tennis. unsung Nicolas Lapentti of Ecuador 6-3 7-5 6-1 in the first semifinal oo Thursday. The one thing I do have

to do to stay in the match with Thomas is to hold my But an International serve," Kafelnikov said. "I know if I stay in the match with him I will have my chances." Friday's semifinal was played with Melbourne retractable centre court roof closed after light rain fell, a

Kafelnikov. "I was actually disappointed with the decision

decision that did not please

once indoors," he said. His win huried the prospect of the first unseeded men's singles final in

Richard Krajicek beat MaliVai Washington in what was originally hilled as an unseeded final at Wimhledon in 1996.

Tennis Federation (ITF) spokeswoman Wimhledon officials decided after the final Krajicek was a seed, replacing Austria's Thomas Muster who had withdrawn from the tournament. ITF records were changed to reflect this. Other than that the only

unseeded final was at the National Championships

when Fred Stolle beat fel-Australian John Newcombe 4-6 12-10 6-3 6-4. Open tennis began in

Hingis and Kournikova began the day with a 7-5 6win over top seeds Davenport and Zvereva in the women's doubles final.

Hingis last year became the third woman to complete a donbles grand slam, winning the Australian Open with Mirjana Lucic and the French, Wimhledon and U.S. Open with Jana Novotna.

Hingis, Kournikova, 17, had never played together before this tournament hut are close friends off the court. Kournikova was playing

in her first grand slam final.

Haas anticipates a big year

MELBOURNE (R) — Tommy Haas had a taste on Friday of the limelight enjoyed hy his illustrious German predecessors, Boris Becker and Michael

But he failed to match his hero, Becker, who won his first grand slam event as an unseeded player

when he was 17 years old. Tipped to be the next hig German after Becker and Stich retired, 33rd ranked Haas had put on his best showing at a grand slam event by making it to the final four at Melhourne Park.

In his semifinal, the 20-year-old from Hamhurg showed his lack of hig match experience as he played the wrong shots on the pivotal points against 10th seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

"He will learn to know the cost of every point he faces," the Russian said of Haas.

"Its important to play the right shot at the important time of the match, and that's probably what he's missing at the moment," he said.

Haas, sporting a tan from his Florida home, showed no disappointment with his performance. After all, he had made it to the semifinals of the year's opening grannt, which had been thrown wide

open with the world's top two players, Pete Sampras and Marcelo Rios out hecause of injury.

His path through the draw was relatively easy, as the two hig names who could have been in the way - fourth urth seed Carlos Moya and 13th seed Cedric Pioline — were both ousted in the first round.

He dismissed Kafelnikov's criticism, saying a player either has a feel for the right shot at the right

"I don't think you can learn that. You either have

that in you or you don't," said Haas. "You just either have that luck on the right day or you don't." After reaching the finals of a warm-up event in

Auckland and the semifinals in Melhourne, he chalked up Friday's match as another lesson in what could he huilding up to he a good year.

"Its a great learning experience for me so far, and you must try to keep going and have a great this year," he said.

French salute rise of potential champion

PARIS (R) — France on Friday salut-ed th emergeoce of a potential new pointing to the Freochwoman's meotal behind on both occasions last year.

The Frenchwoman reversed the fit French tennis champion following Amelie Mauresmo's victory over World No. 1 Lindsay Davenport in the

semifinals of the Australian Open. French oewspapers highlighted the hig 19-year-old's physical power and the all-round streogths of her game as she prepared to meet Martina Hiogis in Saturday's final.

"Mauresmo right up there," said the sports daily L'Equipe in a hanner headline after Mauresmo had come from behind to beat Davenport 4-6 7-5 7-5 on Thursday and reach her first

grand slam final. "It seems to us that French sport has dicovered a real champion," L'Equipe said in a front page editorial. "She has all it takes to be great," it

said in an inside page headline. "Amelie Mauresmo, head and shoulders," said a headline in the sports sec-

and physical streogths.

"All-powerful Amelie Mauresmo," was the title of a profile on the fast rising Frenchwoman in Le Figaro. Mauresmo, world junior champion

in 1996 after victories at Rolland Garros and Wimhledon, said that then she tended to win primarily on the basis of her strength. "I soon realised that wouldn't be

enough in seniors," Mauresmo told Le Figaro. But Mauresmo still hases her

improving game on her athletic build, saying she goes to the gym three times a week

"That helps me to be the girl that stays on court longest and for my ser-

and lost both times hut the Swiss world number two had to come from

vice," Mauresmo said. Mauresmo has played Hingis twice outcome on Thursday of her only previous encounter in Berlin last year with Davenport, who remarked at the power and effect of Mauresmo's serves, saying she played like a man. "Mauresmo disturbs," said Le

The Frenchwoman reversed the final

Parisien of the teenager whose mental strength has carried her through the difficulties of coming out as a leshian. Former French Davis Cup and Fed

Cup captain Yannick Noah is regarded strumental in Mauresmo's rise over

then in May. Noah picked Mauresmo overmo over veteran Nathalie Tauziat for the Fed Cup semifinal against Switzerland and although she did oot win her matches, she was within a whisker of beating Hingis, who she also took to three sets in the second round of the

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Korda wins court ruling against ITF

LONDON (AP) - Petr Korda on Friday won a court ruling against the International Tennis Federation to escape a one-year suspension over his positive drugs test.

The ITF said it may appeal. A High Court judge ruled the ITF can't take Korda to the Court of

Arbitration over his positive test for steroids at last year's Wimbledon championships. Korda tested positive for nandrolone after his quarterfinal Wimhledon loss to Tim Henman in

Last month, an independent appeal

committee appointed by the ITF said Korda was guilty of a doping offense. But the panel cited "exceptional circumstances" and said Korda should not be banned because he did not know how the banned drug got into

Under pressure from players and sports organisations, the ITF appealed against the decision.

The ITF wanted to enforce the ban by appealing to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Switzerland, and Korda, who, under ITF rules, faced a one-year ban for using steroids, took legal action to stop

Korda's attorney, Charles Flint, said the ITF, under its own anti-doping programme, had no right in law to

was "final and hinding" on both Flint said the ITF's own anti-doping programme "is designed to provide for speedy and final determination of disputes as to allegations of doping before an independent expert com-

appeal against the decision, which

mittee,' In Korda's case, he said, the code worked exactly as it was supposed to

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ALWAD MAHROUS

TBA' AL WAZIR Shows: 10:30, 8:30, 6:15, 3:30, 12:30

PLAZA

Comedian Mohammad Huneidi .. in

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JBF cancel participation

AMMAN (J.T.) - The Jordan Basketball Federation said it is not participating in the Arab Clubs' Championship, which will be held in Lebanon March 1-15, 1999. In its recent meeting, the JBF approved the Jazirah, Wihdat, Orthodoxi, Hussein and Jalil teams to take part in the Under-20 championship. The federation decided to contact its rounterparts in West Asia as part of preparations for the Club Qualifiers Championship, to held here in April. The JBF submined a congratulatory cable to HRH Crown Prince Abdullah, the Regent, on the occasion of appointing him as heir.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

New York teen killed over basketball game

NEW YORK (R) — A 14-year-old boy was beaten and stabbed to death in an ap argument over his scoring the most points in a New York school basketball game in which his sister was the official scorekeeper, police said on Thursday. Police said Michaeltt fied in a fight between two rival groups of teen Jackie Robinson Junior High School in Brooklyn after the game on Wednesday night. About six teenagers were arrested for disorderly conduct, but no charges had been filed in Bennett's death, police said. They said Bennett was hit on the bead and stabbed in the chest with a sharp object. Detectives believe some rival players were angry over an incident during the game in which Bennett was the high scorer and official scorekeeper. Bennett was playing for Walt Whitman Junior High School, although police said be was not a student there.

Jordan said wasn't coming back in June-Bulls owner

CHICAGO (AP) - Chicago Bulls chairman Jerry Reinsdorf says Michael Jordan told him in June be had no intention of returning for another season. In an interview in Thursday's Chicago Tribune, Reinsdorf said Jordan told him be would not be back shortly after the Bulls beat the Utah Jazz for their sixth NBA championship. "Michael never said anything to me other than, 'I'm done playing. This is it,'" Reinsdorf said, lordan announced his retirement Jan, 13. He also retired in 1993 to pursue a baseball reareer, but returned to the NBA in 1995. Reinsdorf said be charted with Jordan on the plane ride back to Chicago after the championship. "He said he never was so tired in his life. He said it was his bardest year and he felt he had to carry the team in the Finals more than he'd ever had," Reinsdorf said. "He was totally exhausted, mentally and physically." The two had another conversation at Jordan's downtown office. "When I talked to him (in late June), he said if be did come back, he thought we could bave won again. But he said he wasn't coming back," Reinsdorf said. The Bulls boss said he beard talk from others that maybe Jordan would return for a shortened season, but he never got a sense Jordan was wavering from his original statement. "Michael called me Monday (before his Wednesday retirement news conference) and said nothing had changed," Reinsdorf said. "I asked if he wanted a ceremony to retire his number again. He said, 'No more ceremonies. Just put it back up.' He said that was it."

Weah voted African player of century

PARIS (R) — AC Milan's Liberian striker George Weah, formerly of Monaco and Paris Si Germain, has been voted African Player of the Century. The vote by the International Federation of Football History and Statistics (IFFHS) put Cameroon's Roger Milla, who played in the 1982 and 1990 World Cup finals, second, Former Olympique Marseille winger Abedi Pele of Ghana was third and Algerians Lakhdar Belloumi and Rabah Majder fourth and fifth respectively.

Davis gives Super Bowl edge to Broncos

MIAMI (R) - Two words account for Denver being 7-1/2-point Super Bowl favouriles against an Atlanta team with an identical 16-2 record — Terrell Davis.

The National Football League's Most Valuable Player is every defensive coordinator's nightmare nr a dream come true if he happens to be on your tearn.

"He's a great athlete, he's a great runner, he's got great instincts. He's got everything you look for in a great runner." Denver coach Mike Shanahan said on Thursday.

"I don't know that you can stop him," admitted Falcons Dan "Hopefully we can contain him. We've got to put a lot of people on him because he breaks too many tackles." The explosive Broncus running back, who enmpiled 157 yards rushing and a Super Bowl-record three touchdowns in last year's upset of Green Bay, is the primary reason quarterback John Elway finally got his championship ring. He may

"He makes my joh easy," says Elway, who spends much of his working life these day handing the ball to Davis and getting out of the way.

well be the reason Elway

leaves the game after 16

seasons with two.

That Davis is the finest running back in the NFL today is undeniable. And Elway's claim that he may the be the best of all time might not just be hyperbole. New York Jets coach Bill Parcells compared Davis to the toughest backs to stop in

NFL history — and that was before he galloped for 167 yards against the Jets in the AFC title game. The previous week

against Miami he piled up 199 yards. Davis's ability to read a

defence, find a seam and burst through is amazing, and the stunning quickness with which he can change directions and cut back leaves would-be tacklers grabbing at air.

"A slice of daylight and he is through into the secondary," says Denver offenlineman Schlereth, who makes his living blocking for Davis.

Veteran linebacker Seth Joyner, who joined the Broneos this season after playing for Green Bay last year, knows what the Atlanta defence will be up

against.

I just sympathise with them now," joked Joyner, "I don't think we as a football team really realised how good he was until we played against him last year.

"It's one thing what you see on film, it's another thing what you actually experience against him in the heat of the game. He just ran wild," recalled Joyner. After being nearly over-

looked in the 1995 college draft - 195 players were selected ahead of him - the numbers Davis has put up are staggering. This season - his fourth

as a pro - Davis became

only the third player in NFL history to crack 1,000 yards rushing in just seven games - joining the legendary Jim Brown and O.J. Simpson. Then he became only the fourth to reach the magical 2,000-yard plateau for a season, running for 2,008. Only Eric Dickerson, Simpson and Barry Sanders

had tasted that rarified air. The 2,000 yards is still kind of hard to think about," Davis admitted. "It's something that I didn't think I would ever achieve." His post-season stats require a double take because it doesn't seem they could possibly be correct.

Davis has averaged an NFL record 148.3 yards per postseason contest and 5.8 yards per carry, another record. That means you you give him the ball twice, you have a first down - unless he bursts through the entire defence for a score.

Should the Broncos win on Sunday, Davis could well become only the third player to win consecutive Super Bowl MVP awards, joining an elite club that has

a bank account. Schaffer said

Welch's name was on the

account so Welch could pro-

cure funds for him from the

account in the event Ganga

was out of the country. He

said Welch said he never

made a deposit or withdraw-

An IOC repon said Ganga

received S 216,000 in gifts

and payments from Salt Lake

organisers. He is among

al from the account.



Daniel Adams of Davie, Florida peeks through the shoulder pads of a Denver Broncos uniform as the NFL Experience opens beside Pro Player Stadium in Miami January 28. The event allows fans to experience first hand the tools and history of the NFL. The Broncos will face the Allanta Falcons in Super Bowl XXXII Jan. 31 [Reulers photo]

only quarterbacks Bart Starr and Terry Bradshaw as its members.

Atlanta quarterback Chris strategy is to just keep Davis off the field.

The longer we can hold onto the ball, the less touches he's going to get," said Chandler, "We've got to try to hald onto the rock and not let hint have it." For all his accomplishments, Davis appears to be one of the most unassuming professional athletes in sports history.

this guy is," said teammate

Shannon Sharpe, a leading

"Terrell Davis is the humblest guy I know and with all the success that he's enjoyed in his first four years in the league ... I just can't believe how humble

candidate for least humble. Still Davis quietty has his eye on his place in football

some opportunities to do some great things, I'm try-ing to do everything I can." Davis said.

"Once I hang up my cleats: want to turn on one of those classic (TV) channels and see me running.

Former city councilman talks to FBI about Olympic cash

ving one place like in FBI his tale of the state of th FBI his tale of the nervous with the large bag of cash.

Codfrey told FBI agents

Wednesday night what he Marca had told reporters earlier in the week: A bid committee staff member's story of car-Budapest, Hungary, in 1995 July July just before the 2002 Winter

Games were awarded. He said Thursday he promised the FBI agents he would not disclose what he told them.

But he did recount the conversation he said occurred in the summer of 1996, when he and the man were remi-Godfrey, who was a councilman at the time and traveled to Budapest, has declined to name the man.

"He was saving to P. niscing about what they had

fortable because he had to carry \$ 50,000 in each. So it wasn't a pleasant flight for him," Godfrey said. "He did-

the property of the SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — n't say what it was for He said he gave it to another staff member for expenses and that was it." Godfrey said he didn't press the man for details, but after revelations that Salt Lake's bid comminee lavishly counted Olympic International Comminee members before the IOC vote, the information seemed more interesting, he

the Justice Besides Department, an ethics panel for the Salt Lake Organising Committee and the United States Olympic Committee are investigating the extravagant payments, gifts, free medical care and scholarships for IOC relatives.

The IOC during the weekend said its investigation had found Salt Lake's bid committee spent more than S 800,000, including cash payments, on 14 specific IOC

In other developments Thursday: -The Justice Department has issued subpoenas to the University of Utah. Brigham Young University, Utah Valley State College and Intermountain Health Care for information on IOC officials and relatives who attended the schools or were given medical care by

Two children of IOC members previously were identified as attending Utah Swaziland IOC schools. member David Sibandze's Sibo, reportedly SOIL. received bachelor's and master's degrees from Utah. Libyan IOC member Bashir Attarabulsi's son, Suhel, said he attended BYU and UVSC. He said Olympic organisers paid his tuition bills and provided him with \$ 700 each month for living expenses.

-Two proprietors of a defunct Salt Lake escort service were quoted by The Salt Lake Tribune as saying their escorts entertained IOC members at downtown hotels while they were visiting in

the spring of 1995. George and Georgiev, who opened Snow White Escort Services in 1993, said two escorts performed stripteases for IOC

officials. They could not say who arranged or paid for the

It's long been rumored that escorts were provided to IOC members, but officials said there never was any confir-

KTVX two weeks ago quoted unidentified sources it said were close to SLOC and the escort industry as saying IOC members asked SLOC staffers both in Salt Lake City and at IOC meetings overseas to arrange escorts and the SLOC leaders were flabbergasted at the much higher cost overseas.

Tom Schaffer, anomey for former bid committee and SLOC leader Tom Welch. quoted his client as saying he knew nothing of escorts being provided. -USA Today said Welch

and 10C member Jean-

Claude Ganga of the

Republican of Congo shared

those facing ouster from the IOC. -Utah Senate President Lane Beanie echoed earlier comments made by Gov. Mike Leavitt that the state has a "moral obligation" stand behind its agreement to indemnify Salt Lake City

> related to the games. House Speaker Marry Stephens said it would be impossible tor the Legislature to demand more oversight to make sure the

against any financial losses

games come in on budget. SLOC is a private entity," said Stephens.

"As far as the day-to-day management, the oversight of the games as far as membership on the board, I think that's inappropriate for legislators." -KTVX said a Browning rifle given to 10C President Juan Antonio Samaranch by Salt Lake organizers is worth much more than the \$671 listed. Leon Burrows, who designed the gun's engraving, told the television station the gun could sell for up to \$ 25,000.

The gold in the engraving cost \$3,000 alone, Burrows said, but the special design depicting smilling Samaranch alongside the IOC's first president makes the rifle worth much more. Burrows also said he engraved a second gun for SLOC, although he does not know what happened to it.

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This notice forms an integral part of the Tender Documents.

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